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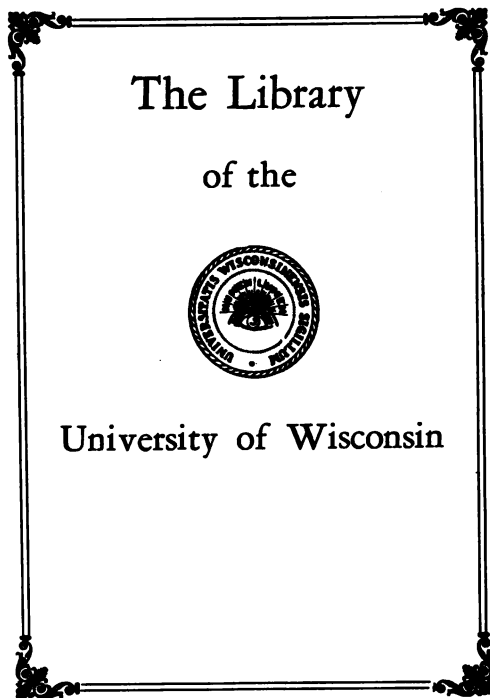
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# *The history of Galashiels*

Robert Hall, Galashiels Manufacturers' Corporation

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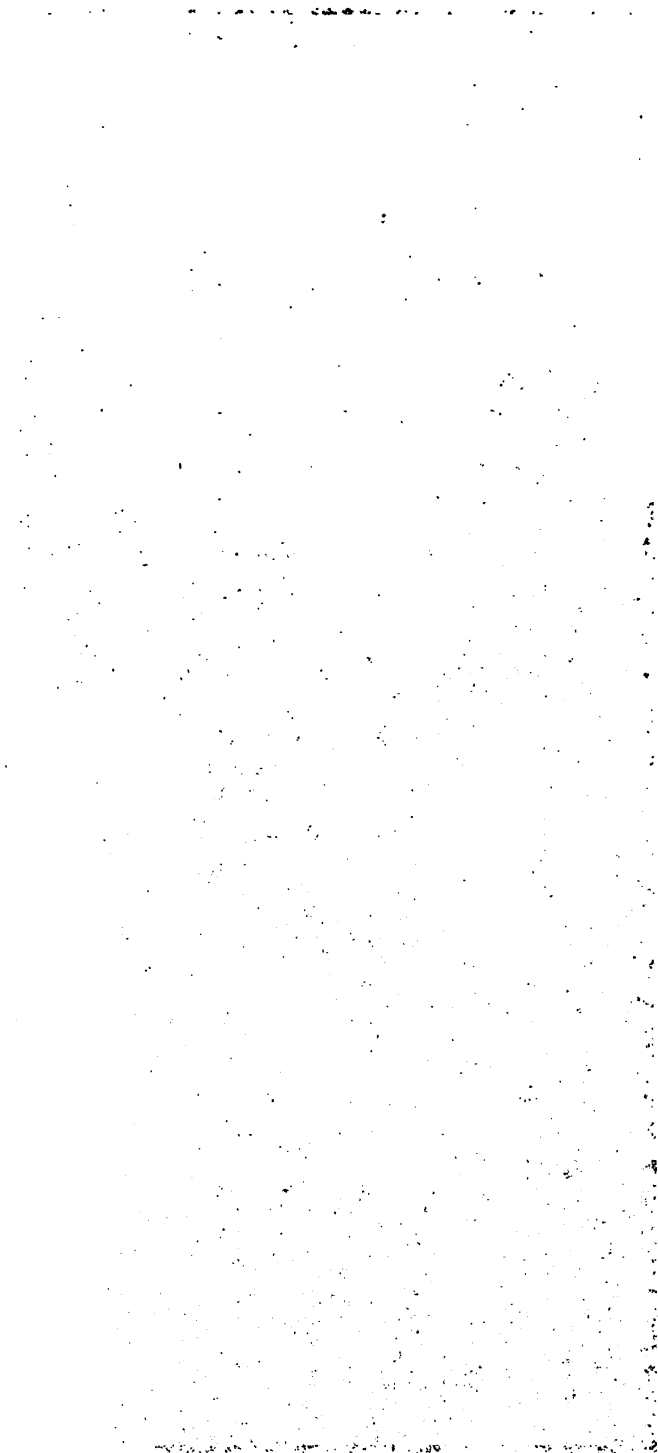


## HISTORY OF GALASHIELS.



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WHICH THIS IS No. 144





THE

# History of Galashiel

*Co. of Galashiel*

BY  
ROBERT HALL.

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Published under the auspices of  
The Galashiels Manufacturers' Corporation.

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## P R E F A C E.

THE modern portion of Galashiels being practically a growth of the Victorian Era, it may be assumed that ample information regarding its history would be readily accessible, and that the selection of fitting material, rather than the procuring of it, would prove the more difficult task. This, however, is not the case. So far as the earlier half of the present century is concerned, little of an authentic nature is to be found. Oral testimony and tradition are equally unreliable, and records of any description are extremely scarce.

To many much of the subject-matter may appear trivial and uninteresting; yet little details, which, through familiarity, may seem superfluous to present-day readers, will, in all probability, appear in a different light to their successors, for whose information they have been placed on record.

With the view of presenting a narrative as continuous and connected as possible, the work has been divided into sections. These embody all the available information bearing upon the civic, ecclesiastical, industrial, educational, and other relations in the town's history.

While collecting material for the work the author has to acknowledge the unvarying courtesy and kindness he received from all he had occasion to approach. In this connection the names of Mr Nenion Elliot, S.S.C., Clerk of Teinds, Edinburgh, and Mr David McB. Watson, Hawick, are entitled to special mention.

The following gentlemen have also rendered valuable assistance in reading for the press, viz.,—Mr James Smail, Edinburgh; Mr John McQueen and Mr James L. Anderson, Galashiels.

Acknowledgment has also to be made to Mr Nicholas Dickson, editor of the *Border Magazine*, Glasgow, for the use of the plate of Abbotsford in 1812; Mr Balmain, photographer,

Edinburgh, for copy of portrait of Dr Douglas; Mr Andrew Elliot, publisher, Princes Street, Edinburgh, for photograph of Dr Nathaniel Paterson; Mr James Sanderson, Woodlands, for the use of the originals of the views of the town; and to Mr Donald G. Stalker for the sketch of Lindean Kirkyard.

The author trusts the volume will prove of interest to the general reader, and more especially to townsmen who cherish the traditions and associations that cluster round the place of their abode. He also hopes it will be of service in fostering a greater interest in the minds of the young and rising generation belonging to Galashiels regarding the origin and history of the place of their birth.

*October, 1898.*

ROBERT HALL.

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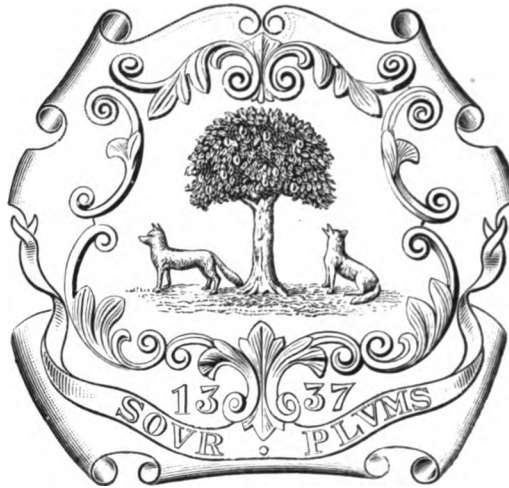
The author has to acknowledge his indebtedness to the following sources of information,—

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Chancery Miscellaneous Portfolios.  
Privy Council Records.  
Origines Parochiales Scotiæ, and other works, by Cosmo Innes.  
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## **SECTION I.—HISTORY OF GALASHIELS.**





ARMS AND MOTTO OF THE TOWN OF GALASHIELS.

## CHAPTER I.

THE town of Galashiels, unlike most of the towns on the Scottish Border, has little or no ancient history; it inherits no proud traditions of heroic deeds performed by its sons; legend and song are nearly alike silent concerning it.

Occupying one of the passes leading between the Southern Highlands and the Lowland plains, there is little recorded regarding the part it played in the stirring annals of the Borderland. It possesses no archives, no musty charters from William the Lion, or David of church-building memory; no broad acres or wide-spreading commons, in defence of which its inhabitants could be called upon to peril life or limb.

Only a century ago Galashiels was but an obscure country village situated on a steep hillside. Hidden among the hills, its existence was scarcely known outside the pastoral valley in which its sons founded a habitation and a name. As a town, it is the architect of its own fortunes, owing its birth and progress to the energy and perseverance of those who planted their spinning mills on the banks of the Gala, discerning the value of the power possessed by that classic stream.



The name Galashiels is said to be derived from the British *gwala* (the full stream), and the Saxon *shiel* (or shelter)—the shiels or shelters on the banks of the Gala, used by the keepers of the forest, hunters, and shepherds. These erections would be of the rudest description, owing to their liability to be destroyed in the frequent hostile incursions from across the Border.

The name has been subjected to a variety of spellings, amongst which occur the following,—Galuscheil, Gallowschel, Galowayscheelis, Galwschelis, Galloschelis, Gallaschelis, Gallowscheillis, Gallowschelis, Gallowsheills, Gallowshiels, Galasheels, Gallosheiles, Gallascheiles, Galasheills, Galashiels, &c.

The Scottish Border counties afford many examples of places called shiels, but none of them has expanded into a town like the shiels on the banks of the Gala. Foulshiels, the birth-place of Mungo Park, and Cauldshiels, adjoining Abbotsford, are familiar examples. So many of the old villages have now disappeared that the name shiels is frequently found attached to farm houses and the solitary dwellings of shepherds, these being all that remain to mark the spot they once occupied.

In a charter granted by David I. to the Monks of Melrose, Gala is spelt *Galche*, and again in a charter by William the Lion, *Galue*. In the *Liber de Mailros*, mention of the Gala frequently occurs. During the reign of Alexander III. it appears to have  
 1268 changed its course, as on the 13th April, 1268, Simon Fraser, Sheriff of Traquair, and others, were directed to pass to the lands adjoining the “Galu,” and inquire how far, according to its “new course,” the possessions of the Abbot and convent of Melrose were affected.

As the haugh upon which Galashiels is built is the only part in the valley of the Gala which belonged to the Abbey lands, there can be little doubt that this reference applies to the site of the older portion of the town. The natural configuration of the locality warrants the assumption that, at some remote period, the stream must have flowed more to the south

## HISTORY OF GALASHIELS.

than it does at the present day. From Kilnknowe to Netherdale the scaur, formed by the action of the water, still remains in the form of a steep wooded bank, except at such places where it has been interfered with in connection with the building of the town. Therefore, as the Abbey lands in the locality were bounded on the south by the Gala, this alteration in its course would affect nearly all the haugh, upon which the lower portion of the town is built.

The summit of Gala Hill, at the base of which the original village nestled, is called Gorgum, and is supposed to be the place mentioned in Blind Harry's *Wallace* as Gorkhelm, where Cospatrick, Earl of Dunbar, entrenched himself against a 1296 threatened attack by the Scottish patriot in 1296.

“ Erll Patrik than, in all haist can him speid,  
And passit by, or Wallace power rais;  
With out restyng, in Atrik forrest gais,  
Wallace folowed, bot he wald nocht assaill:  
A rang to mak as than it mycht nocht waill:  
Our few he had, the strenth was thick and strong.  
Vij myill on breid, and tharto twys so long,  
In till Gorkhelm Erll Patrik leiffit at rest,  
For more power Wallace past in the west.”

The rival armies had previously met in Haddingtonshire, where Cospatrick had suffered defeat. Fleeing into Berwickshire, he advanced westward by Norham and Coldstream, but, according to the above quotation, before Wallace could bring forward the main body of his army, his opponent hurriedly made his way into Ettrick Forest. Wallace followed him, but, finding, from his numerical inferiority and the impenetrable nature of the district, that no advantage was to be gained by making an attack at that time, he went into the west for the purpose of procuring assistance, while Cospatrick entrenched himself in Gorkhelm, where he rested in security.

1337      The earliest mention of *Galuschel* in history occurs in 1337 in the following quotation from *Scalacronica*,—

"The marchers of England hering of the sege of Edenburge, cam to rescue it: so that the [Scots] cam thens to Clerkington and the Englischmenne cam to Krethtoun, where betwixt them and the Scottes was a great fighte, and many slayne on both parties. Then the Scottes made as they wold go yn to England, and lodged themself at Galuschel and the Engliche went over Twede."

In connection with this retreat of the English, the origin of the town's arms is said to have arisen. These at present consist of a plum tree with a fox on each side, and the motto "Sour Plums." Tradition affirms that a party of the English army, suspecting no danger, straggled from the main body, and began to gather the wild plums that grew in profusion in the locality. While so engaged, they were surprised by the Scots, who fell upon them and cut them off to a man, their bodies being thrown into a trench situated in the Eastlands, which is termed the "Englishman's syke" to the present day. In commemoration of this exploit, the inhabitants of the village, who may have taken part in the skirmish, adopted the sarcastic title of the "Sour plums of Galashiels."

In a volume recently published, entitled *The Arms of the Royal and Parliamentary Burghs of Scotland*, it is stated that the arms of the town are not recorded in the Lyon Office, and it is considered probable that the design had its origin in connection with the fable of the fox and grapes. Some colour is supposed to be given to this surmise on account of the design of the Burgh seal being a vine with fruit and two foxes.

Little or no weight can be attached to this circumstance, as the seal is of modern origin, having been procured in 1868. The want of uniformity between it and the town's arms may be simply accounted for by assuming that the official who gave instructions regarding the design of the seal may have been more familiar with the fable of the fox and grapes, which he probably imagined the town's arms represented, than with the ancient history of the town. Acting under the belief that the plum tree should have been a vine, he appears to have given such instructions to the engraver as to account for this departure

from the proper design. Even the volume in question affords an example of how such innovations are made. It describes the town's arms as being, in the language of heraldry,

“On a mount a plum tree fructed, between two foxes; that on the dexter statant, and that on the sinister segant.”

The engraving shows the plum tree elevated on a mound, which is a departure from any representation of the town's arms hitherto published, and is even at variance with the illustration from which, it is stated, the design was derived.

It is also probable that the introduction of the foxes has been effected in a similar manner. This view is supported by a reference to the design of the town's arms, contained in the following extract from a manuscript written in the earlier years of the present century, by the late Mr Elliot Anderson, writer, from which it appears at that date only one fox was represented,

“It is therefore a mistake to make the coat of arms as they at present are, ‘The Tod and Plum Tree,’ which is evidently taken from the fable of the fox and grapes. The arms should be simply a plum tree fruited, with the motto, ‘Sour Plums.’”

There can be little doubt that this view of the subject is the correct one. These departures from the original design have in all probability been carried into effect by persons who were in ignorance regarding the tradition from which the town's arms originated.

The “Sour Plums of Galashiels” were celebrated in an old song, the words of which are lost, though the tune remains. There is a manuscript journal extant, written by Alexander Campbell, editor of *Albyn's Anthology*, who visited the Borders in 1816 for the purpose of collecting local tunes. This journal contains notices of the best Border pipers of the eighteenth century, taken down from the conversation of Mr Thomas Scott (uncle of Sir Walter Scott), who was himself a skilful performer on the Lowland, or bellows, pipes, one of those referred to being

“Donald Maclean, piper at Galashiels, who was a capital piper, and the only one who could play on the pipe the old popular tune of the ‘Sour Plums of Galashiels,’ it requiring a peculiar art of pinching the back hole of the chanter with the thumb to produce the higher notes of the melody in question. Donald Maclean was the father of the well-known William Maclean, dancing master, Edinburgh, and died about the middle of last century. Richard Lees, manufacturer in Galashiels, has the said William Maclean’s bagpipes in his possession.”

In the works of Hamilton of Bangour occurs an unfinished mock heroic poem entitled “The Maid of Galoshiels.” The scene is laid at a Galashiels fair, the principal characters being a piper and fiddler, whom, in presence of the “maids, widows, wives, and matrons of Galoshiels,” the piper accuses of abusing the laws of hospitality by supplanting him in the affections of the frail and fickle “Elspet,” the maid in question. According to Cromek, the piper referred to in the poem was the above Donald Maclean, who, in the beginning of last century, acted as piper to Sir James Scott of Gala. It is stated by Robert Burns that Maclean was the author of the air called “Gallashiels.” This tune, however, is only a variation, written upon a lower key, of the old tune the “Sow’r Plumbs of Gallow Shiels,” and published for the first time in *Orpheus Caledonius*, in 1725. The earliest allusion to the song, or air, “Sour Plums of Galashiels,” is found in an old version of “Gala Water,” quoted elsewhere; and it appears from internal evidence to have been in existence in 1632, but how much earlier cannot be determined. The opinion is held that these tunes are identical, and that the title “Sour Plums of Galashiels” is only another or fuller name for the tune “Gallashiels,” said to be composed by Maclean. According to the above quotation regarding Maclean’s ability to play the “old popular tune,” he would not have been referred to in these terms had he been the composer. Doubtless, the fact, if it were so, would be known to Thomas Scott, who may have been intimate with him in his younger days.

Thomas Scott died in 1823, aged ninety, and it is stated by Sir Walter Scott that his uncle,

“Being a great musician on the Scotch pipes, had, when on his death-bed, a favourite tune played over to him by his son James, that he might be sure he left him in full possession of it. After hearing it, he hummed it over himself, and corrected it in several of the notes. The air was that called ‘Sour Plums of Galashiels.’”

With reference to this instance of the ruling passion strong in death, Ruskin thus writes,—

“No occasion for death-bed repentance, you perceive, on the part of this old gentleman, no particular care even for the disposition of his handsome independence; but here is a bequest of which one must see one’s son in full possession; here’s a thing to be well looked after before setting out for heaven, that the tune of ‘Sour Plums of Galashiels’ may still be played on earth in an incorrupt manner, and no damnable French or English variations intruded upon the solemn and authentic melody thereof.”

The lands and manor of Galashiels formed part of Ettrick Forest, and originally belonged to the Crown, being granted in 1321 to Sir James Douglas by Robert Bruce. The boundaries of this famous forest were enlarged at various times, and latterly comprised an irregular tract of country containing that portion of the Tweed and its tributaries extending from Langlee to the neighbourhood of Traquair; this area included the Ettrick, Yarrow, Caddon, and their tributaries, and a small portion of the Gala, commencing near Blindlee, to its junction with the Tweed. Its greatest length extended from Buckholmhill to Ettrick Pen, and its widest part lay between the source of Caddon water and the neighbourhood of Ashkirk. The following description of it applies to the olden time, when the Stewart line sat upon the Scottish throne.

“Ettricke Foreste is a fair foreste;  
In it grows many a semelie tree—  
There’s hart and hind, and dae and rae,  
And of a’ wilde bestis grete plentie.”

1416 In 1416 a dispute arose

“Betwixt the Religouse men, the Abbot and the Cōuēt of Melrose on the ta. pte. and ane honorabil Sqwhair, John the Hage, lorde of Bemerside, on the tothir. pte. for Erig of a certain pece of land within thair maynis of Redpeth, fornent the maynis of Bemerside beforsaide, the qwhilk the said John claymis, suld be comon to bathe the forsaide places.”

With a view to the settlement of this controversy, "Archebalde, Erle of Douglas, lorde of Galway and Anandail," wrote a letter addressed "til alle ye sonys of oure hali modir ye Kirk." This epistle was intended to promote "frenschippe, vnite, and gude concorde betwix ptyes discordand," and was "gywin vnder oure sealle at 'Gallowschel' the xvij. day of the moneth of Decemb, the yhere of G'ce M<sup>1</sup>.CCCC. and the XVJ." As the old house of Gala was not erected at that date, it is surmised that the building, or tower, occupied by the Douglasses, stood a few hundred yards more to the south, where the remains of an ancient building are still to be traced, the origin of which is unknown.

About 1408, Robert Hoppringle of Whitsome, in Berwickshire, obtained from Archibald, Earl of Douglas, a tack of the Forest steadings of Galashiels and Mossilee. Robert Hoppringle had been shield-bearer to James, the second Earl of Douglas, who was killed at the battle of Otterburn in 1388. Acting in the same capacity for Archibald, the fourth Earl, he accompanied him to France, where they both fell at the battle of Verneuil in 1424. After the forfeiture of the Douglasses in 1445, the family continued kindly tenants under the Crown till 1566, when Queen Mary granted them the lands in feu. These tacks were for a limited period; but were usually granted to the same family, who were thus described in some of the old feu charters,—

"Thay and their forbeiris hed been auld and kyndlie possessours and few rentallaris past memorie of man."

The village of Galashiels in those days would, in all probability, consist of a cluster of rude cottages, having no importance, consequently almost nothing is recorded in history concerning it.

1442 An entry in the Exchequer Rolls, dated 17th July, 1442, states that £5 was paid to Mr Nicolas, carpenter, for his expenses and those of his servitor, for riding at the command of the King to "Galowayscheelis" in the Forest regarding the carriage of the King's great bombard. For what particular reason a piece of

ordnance of that nature was to be found at Galashiels must remain a matter for conjecture. Bombards for siege operations were introduced by James I., who, in 1430, brought from Flanders a great brass bombard which bore the name of the Lion. This piece of ordnance did duty at the siege of Roxburgh in 1460, where James II. met his death by the bursting of one of the cannons employed in the investment of that fortress.

1457 In 1457 the original portion of Gala House was built by the wife of Robert, the second Hoppringill of Galashiels, having, it is said, this inscription cut on the doorway, —

“ Elspeth Dishington built me,  
In syn lye not;  
The things thou can'st not get  
Desyre not.”

There is a sculptured stone, which belonged to the old building, now built into the wall of the St John Street lodge, dated 1583, which may refer to the date of the first addition to the old peel by Andro Pringill, who had evidently not long survived its erection, as in the family burial place in Melrose Abbey the following epitaph is still to be seen,—

“ Heir leis ane honorabil man, Andro Pringill, feuar of Gallowschiels,  
quha decessit ye 28 of February, An. Dom. 1585.”

A second stone, dated 1612, built into the wall of the game-keeper's dwelling, celebrated the chief addition to the house, other portions having been added subsequently; and it continued to be the home of the Scotts of Gala till 1876, when, in order to provide ground for the extension of the town, the new mansion house was erected. The old building was acquired by Mr Andrew H. Herbertson, builder, who changed its name to Beechwood.

Tradition affirms that when the kings of Scotland took their pleasure in the Forest, they occupied a hunting lodge at Galashiels, which was named the “Hunter's Ha'.” Colour is 1463 given to the belief by a record, dated 1st February, 1463, when



at "Galwschelis" the King confirmed to William de Douglas de Cluny and Lord of "Trakware," certain lands in the county of Peebles.

Reference bearing upon this tradition is made by Tennant, in his description of a Scottish tour which he made in 1772, as follows,—

"We have now crossed the water, and are in the county of Selkirk, or the Forest of Ettrick, which was formerly reserved by the Scottish princes for the pleasure of the chase, and where they had small houses for the reception of their train. One in Gala Shields, the adjoining village, still keeps the name of the 'Hunter's Hall.'"

In 1467, at the Beltane court, the King is found remitting fines incurred by a smith, and other inhabitants of Galoschelis, Moysilee, and Blyndlee. In 1485 the "foglammys" of Galoschelis, Moysilee, Blyndlee, and Magalt were rented by Queen Margaret of Denmark, wife of James III., for pasturing sheep, with the right to have "schelis."

1503 In 1503 the lands and manor of Galashiels formed part of the dower of Margaret Tudor, daughter of Henry VII. of England, and wife of James IV. of Scotland, in whose favour sasine was given by John Murray of Fawlohyll, Sheriff of Selkirk, on the soil of the said lordship, near the tower and manor of "Galloschelis."

1513 In 1513 occurred the disastrous battle of Flodden,

"Where shivered was fair Scotland's spear,  
And broken was her shield."

This memorable defeat carried woe and lamentation into many a Border home. In that fatal fight David Pringle of Galashiels fell, along, it is said, with four of his sons, and, without doubt, a number of the villagers would lay down their lives in the same cause. Regarding this famous episode in Scottish history, local tradition is silent; but this was no ordinary occasion, and all the inhabitants of the village capable of bearing arms would play their part in that deadly struggle, where "The flowers o' the Forest were a' wede away."

## CHAPTER II.

THE pacification of the Borders and the extinction of the old-established practice of plundering occupied a large portion of the time of the Scottish Privy Council. The proclamations and obligations to abandon the old reiving habits, and prosecutions for relapsing into them, are worthy of being perused for the revelation they afford of the inner life of the Borders at this period. While there happened to be a truce between the two countries it was illegal for the Scottish Borderers to make raids into England. At the same time it was hardly politic to crush their offensive capacities, since, in the event of a war taking place, a powerful help was rendered by these same men.

Old "Satchells" refers to them as being

"Somewhat unruly and very ill to tame,  
I would have none think that I call them thieves ;  
For if I did, it would be arrant lies ;  
For all Frontiers, and Borders, I observe,  
Wherever they ly, are Free-booters,  
And does the enemy much more harms,  
Than five thousand marshall-men in arms."

1548      On the 14th of April, 1548, an incident happened in the locality which was of rare occurrence in Border history. George Hoppringill of Torwoodlee had to find security that he would underlie the law, being charged with affording treasonable assistance to "our ancient enemies of England," giving and taking assurance from them, and for other crimes contained in his letters. On the 5th June following, Robert Hoppringill of Blyndley and five others found the laird of Torwoodlee as surety that they would underlie the law at the next aire of Selkirk for the same offence, and also for keeping the house of Bukhame, belonging to James Hoppringill of Tynnes, and

pāsturing the lands thereof. When the time of the trial arrived, they failed to appear, and their lands were granted to the said James Hoppringill.

1564 In 1564, among those charged to attend Sir Walter Kerr of Cessford, warden of the middle marches, was "the guidman of Galloscheles," and again in 1572, he, along with others, amongst whom were George Hoppringill of Blyndley, William Ker of Yair, and William Hoppringill of Torwodley, came under an obligation to rise against the King's enemies, and especially against the laird of Fairnyhirst and his accomplices, or the thieves within Liddisdail, Ewesdail, or Annandaill.

Under the social conditions that prevailed at this period, the prosecution of trade or commerce would prove impossible, from the continuous proclamations which were issued, calling out the inhabitants to perform military service for shorter or longer periods as occasion required. The following is a specimen of a royal proclamation,—

"Thair be oppin proclamatioun in our Soverane Lordis name and autoritie, command and charge all betwix thre scoir and sextene yeris, that they and ilk ane of thame, 'weil bodin in feir of weare,' with xx. days' victuallis meit my Lord Regentis Grace at the burgh of Peblis, and fra that to pas furthwart as they salbe commandit for persute and invasioun of the said theivis and disorderit people, and reduceing of thame to oure Soverane Lordis obedience, under the pane of tinsell of lyff, landis, and gudes."

Much has been said and written in connection with the wild and lawless mosstroopers residing on both sides of the Border, and the following narrative vividly depicts the insecure tenure of life and property, before law and order became established. The offence was committed in 1568, but it was thirty-eight years afterwards ere the chief perpetrator was brought to justice.

"Jonne Ellote of Cappschaw, dilanit, accuset and persewit be George Hoppringill of Torwoidlie, James and Daid Hoppringlis as oyes (grandchildren) with the remanent kyn and friendis of vmqle George Hoppringill of Torwoidlie, their guidsher (grandfather) of the crymes following, viz.:—

"Forsamekill as the said Johnne Ellote of Cappschaw, Robert Elliot callet *Mairtenis Hob*, and Jok Airmestrang callit the *Lardis jok*, with their complices, with convocatioun of the hail clannis of the Airmestrangis, Ellotes, Batiesons,

Grahames and remenant clannis, duelland alsweill on the Inglis as Scottis bordouris, all cownone theives, outlaws, and broken men, to the number of thre hundreth personis or thairby; 'bodin in feir of weir' (in military array), with jakis, speiris, steil-bonnetis, lance-stalfis, hagbutis, and pistolets, expreslie prohibeit to be borne, worne, vset, or schot with, be dyuerse our Actis of Parliament and Secreit Counsall, in the moneth of December, the yeir of God 1<sup>m</sup> vc threscoir aucht yeiris, come fordward in hosteill maner, baith on horse and fute, to the place of Torwoidlie, and there vnder silence and clud of nycht, with foir-hammeris and geistis (beams) dang up the zeittis (gates) of the said place, and be force and violence enterit within the samyn : and tuk the said George (Hoppringill) furth of his bed, and conveyit him away as captiue and prissoner with them to the Skaldeneise, within the Sherifdome of Selkirk; and thair maist crewallie and vnmerciefullie mordreist and slew the said George; committing thairthrow nocht only crewall and abhominabill murthour and sluchter, bot also vsurpatioun of our Souerane Lordis autoritie vpone thame, in taking of the said George Hoppringill captiue but (without) power or commissioun, he being our Sovrane Lordis frie lege. And siclyke, at the samen tyme, the said Johnne Ellotte and remenant personis, with thair complices, to the number above written, at the tyme fairsaid, brak up the haill kistis, cofferis, and lockfast houssis within the said place, and thiftiouslie staw, conceillit, resset, and away-tuik with thame, furth of the said place of Torwoidlie, and stabillis thairof, sevintene horsis pertening to the said George, price of the piece ourheid ane hundreth pundis money, togidder with the sowme of ane thousand pundis of gold and money furth of the said George Hoppringill's purse.

*Item.*—Thre siluer peices, weyand fourscoir vneces of siluer or thairby, price of the vnce fourtie schillings.

*Item.*—Tua dissane of siluer spvnes, ilk spvne weyand twa vnce of siluer, price of the vnce fourtie schillings.

Togidder with the haill bedding, naiprie, clething, abuilzementis insicht and plenissing being within the said place, worth the sowme of fyve thousand merkis money of this realme, had and transpoirtit away with thame and desponit thairvpoun att thair pleasour.

The justice adudget the said Johnne to be denunceit our Souerane Lordis rebell, and put to the horne; and all his movabill guidis to be escheit and inbrocht to our Souerane Lordis vse, as fugitiue fra his hienis lawis, for the saidis crymes."

1570 In consequence of a deadly quarrel existing between the Hoppringills and Elliots, great trouble had already taken place, and greater appeared to be in store if some remedy was not provided. Regarding this feud, it is recorded that on December 7th, 1570,

"There was ane day of law between the Hoppringles and the Elliots in Edinburgh, wherein the ane party set upon the other, and had not the town redd them, there had been great slaughter done that day."

As was customary at that time, the Regent put them under a bond for their good behaviour for time coming. Among the Hoppringills were Daud Hoppringill of Gallowscheillis, James Hoppringill of Torsonce, William Hoppringill of Torwodlie, George Hoppringill of Blyndley, and Johnne Hoppringill of Buckholme.

1575 In 1575 the feud appears to have still existed, as at that date certain persons were named to be "commoners upon the said feud," who were to agree upon the terms of settlement. On the one side were Daud Hoppringill of Gallowscheillis, and eleven others of that name, while on the other side were six Elliots, three Douglasses, two Rutherfords, and John Turnbull of Minto.

1583 It is evident that the Hoppringills were men of light and leading at that period, as in 1583 James Hoppringill of Quhytebank, and Andro Hoppringill of Gallowscheillis, are charged to appear before the Privy Council under pain of rebellion,

"To gif thair gude advise anent the quieting of the present troubles and disorderis in Teviotdaill and Liddesdaill, and observing of gude ordour in tyme cuming."

In *The History and Poetry of the Scottish Border*, by Professor Veitch, it is stated that the hero of the oldest known and probably the original version of "The Dowie Dens of Yarrow" was a "servan' lad in Gala." This humble individual had found favour in the sight of Mary Scott, "the rose of Yarrow," daughter of John Scott of Dryhope. Taking all the circumstances into account, it is considered probable that the ballad refers to an incident in her life previous to her marriage to Wat of Harden in 1576, by which event she became the ancestress of the Scotts of Gala. However willing the maiden might have been to overlook the difference in position between the daughter of a celebrated Border freebooter and her lover of

low degree, her relatives had other views regarding the disposal of her hand. Hopeless of changing the mind of the young lady, her father proposed that the "servan' lad" should fight the nine lords, or lairds, who were suitors for her hand, considering it extremely improbable that he would survive the unequal combat. Nothing daunted, he accepted the condition. The fight took place, and when seven of his opponents had bit the dust, he was treacherously stabbed by the brother of his lady love, who was an interested spectator of the deadly struggle.

The undernoted version of this celebrated ballad was discovered by Professor Veitch, which, in its beautiful simplicity, explains the incongruities which exist among the various versions of the "Dowie Dens" collated by Ramsay, Motherwell, and Sir Walter Scott,—

#### THE DOWIE DENS OF YARROW.

At Dryhope lived a lady fair,  
The fairest flower in Yarrow ;  
And she refused nine noble men  
For a servan' lad in Gala.

Her father said that he should fight  
The nine lords all to-morrow;  
And he that should the victor be,  
Would get the Rose of Yarrow.

Quoth he, ' You're nine and I'm but ane,  
And in that there's no' much marrow;  
Yet I shall fecht ye man for man,  
In the dowie dens o' Yarrow.'

She's kissed his lips and combed his hair,  
As oft she'd done before, O,  
An' set him on her milk-white steed,  
Which bore him on to Yarrow.

When he got o'er yon high, high hill,  
An' down the dens o' Yarrow,  
There did he see the nine lords all,  
But there was not one his marrow.

## HISTORY OF GALASHIELS.

'Now here ye're nine, an' I'm but ane,  
But yet I am not sorrow ;  
For here I'll fecht ye man for man,  
For my true love on Yarrow.'

Then he wheel'd round and fought so fierce,  
Till the seventh fell on Yarrow ;  
When her brother sprang from a bush behind,  
And ran his body thorough.

He never spoke more words than these,  
An' they were words o' sorrow :  
'Ye may tell my true love, if ye please,  
That I'm sleepin' sound in Yarrow.'

They've ta'en the young man by the heels,  
And trailed him like a harrow,  
And then they flung the comely youth  
In a whirlpool o' Yarrow.

The lady said, 'I dreamed yestreen—  
I fear it bodes some sorrow—  
That I was pu'in' the heather green  
On the scroggy braes o' Yarrow.'

Her brother said, 'I'll read your dream,  
But it should cause nae sorrow,  
Ye may go seek your lover hame,  
For he's sleepin' sound in Yarrow.'

Then she rode o'er yon gloomy height,  
An' her heart was fu' o' sorrow ;  
But only saw the clud o' night,  
Or heard the roar o' Yarrow.

But she wandered east, so did she wast,  
And searched the forest thorough,  
Until she spied her ain true love  
Lyin' deeply drowned in Yarrow.

His hair it was five quarters lang,  
Its colour was the yellow ;  
She twined it round her lily hand,  
And drew him out o' Yarrow,

She kissed his lips, and combed his head,  
As oft she'd done before, O;  
She laid him o'er her milk-white steed,  
An' bore him home from Yarrow.

She washed his wounds in yon well-strand,  
And dried him wi' the hollan',  
And aye she sighed, and said, 'Alas!  
For my love I had him chosen.'

'Go hold your tongue,' her father said,  
'There's little cause for sorrow,  
I'll wed ye on a better lad  
Than ye hae lost in Yarrow.'

'Haud your ain tongue, my faither dear,  
I canna' help my sorrow;  
A fairer flower ne'er sprang in May  
Than I hae lost in Yarrow.

I meant to make my bed fu' wide,  
But you may make it narrow,  
For now I've nane to be my guide,  
But a deid man drowned in Yarrow.'

An aye she screighed and cried, 'Alas!'  
Till her heart did break wi' sorrow,  
An' sank into her faither's arms,  
'Mang the dowie dens o' Yarrow.

Professor Veitch thus comments,—“The falling into the father's arms, which fitly concludes the ballad, did not mean the conclusion of her career. The terminations of ballads of this class are usually in the same conventional style. And probably 'the Flower of Yarrow' was no exception to the run of her sex in having more than one love experience.”



### CHAPTER III.

**S**HORTLY before the Reformation an Act was passed by the Scottish Parliament attaching the penalty of death to those found guilty of practising sorcery or witchcraft. For over one hundred years this law remained in operation, bringing misery and death to numbers of innocent persons. The sufferings these miserable wretches had to endure before death released them can scarcely be conceived. If they maintained their innocence, they were tortured for the purpose of extorting a confession; life was made unendurable, till the victims were ready to admit anything so as to obtain a brief respite from their agony. The legal records at this date are full of instances of the horrible atrocities perpetrated in the name of justice and religion.

So far as Galashiels is concerned, there exists no record of any case of the kind. The Witchie Knowe, or, as it is now termed, Craigpark, the residence of Provost Dun, is credited with being the locality where the last penalty of the law was inflicted in the district in connection with the crime of witchcraft, but no evidence is forthcoming to support the allegation.

1590 In 1590 a celebrated trial occurred, in which the wife of Sir James Pringle of Galashiels was concerned. This was the case of Agnes Sampson, in Nether Keyth, *alias* "the wyse wyff of Keyth." She was charged upon fifty-three different counts,—conspiring the King's death, witchcraft, sorcery, and incantation, the thirty-ninth being,—

"Sche haifing done pleasour to the gudwyffe of Gallowschelis, for the quhilk sche did nocht satisfie hir sa sone als the said Agnes desyrit, and thairfore sche said to the said gudwyffe that 'Sche sould repent it.' And within a few houris thairafter the said gudwyffe tuik ane wodness (madness), and her tounge schot out of hir heid, and swallowit like ane pott, quairfore sche sent to her the thing sche desyrit, and prayit her to come to her, and sche baid the seruand, 'Ga away hame, for the gudwyffe was weill.' Being found

guilty, the said Agnes was orderit be the justice, pronounceit be the mouth of James Scheill, dempster, to be tane to the castle (hill) of Edinburgh, and thair bund to ane stake and werreit quhill sche was dead, and thairefter her body to be brunt in assis, and all her movable gudis to be escheit and in brocht to our Sowrane Lordis vse, &c., &c."

The belief in witchcraft was long in dying out. So recently as 1766 the Seceders, in their annual confession of sins, bewailed that the penal statutes against witches had been repealed, "contrary to the express law of God."

At the present day it is sometimes found necessary to bind over some quarrelsome individuals to keep the peace. In the olden time this method of preserving law and order was an everyday occurrence; the following are a few examples, taken from a large number of instances connected with the locality,—

1591 "In 1591 Andro Logane of Coitfield became caution to the extent of £2,000 for George Hoppringill of Torwodlie, and those for whom he is answerable by the general band that they 'sall observe and keep the kingis Majesteis pease.' Caution was offered for a similar amount by James Hoppringill of that ilk, and James Hoppringill of Quhytebank for Johnne Hoppringill of Buckum. Andro Ker of Yair likewise became security in 1000 merks for George Hoppringill of Blindley, that he and all for whom he is answerable 'shall keep the Kingis pease.'"

Domestic dissension also appears to have occasionally  
1597 arisen, as, in 1597, it was found necessary for

"William Cairncroce of Colmisly to become surety to the extent of £1000 for Mary Borthwick, life renter of the lands of Gallowscheillis, and Johnne Home, now her spouse, not to harm James Pringill of Smailholm (her son); and James Hoppringill of that ilk became surety for James Pringill of Smailholm in £1000 not to harm the said Mary Borthwick and her spouse."

In these modern days, when men dwell in peace and safety, it is somewhat difficult to realize the frequent outrages that were perpetrated, in many cases upon innocent and unoffending people. Appletreeleaves was the scene of one of these lawless attacks, as in 1598 complaint was made to the Privy Council by Philip Darling, Apiltreleaves, that,

"While he was gangand at his awin pleuch in peceabill and quiet maner without armour, Thomas Hardie, in Blyndley, furnished with pistolets, set upoun him and cruellie persewit him of his lyffe, shot three pistolets at him, and had not failed to slay him, were not the grace of God and his awin better defence."

Hardie, who was a servant to George Hoppringill of Blyndley, failed to appear, and was proclaimed rebel.

In ancient times the Darlings of Appletreeleaves were an influential family in the district. In an extract from a general decret of valuation of teinds, of date 9th December, 1629, it is recorded that

"There compeared Peter Darling and Andro Darling, callit *Meikle Andro*, and Andro Darling, callit *Young Andro*, equal proprietoris and portionoris of ye landis of Apiltreleves."

In this document it is declared that the lands of Langhaugh were a part and pendicle of Appletreeleaves, and from that date down to comparatively recent times it remained in the hands of the Darling family. In 1792 that portion of the estate now known as Ladhope came into the possession of the great-great-granddaughter of Andrew Darling, she being the nearest lawful heir. In the same year she disposed of Ladhope to Archibald Menzies, merchant in Edinburgh, who, in 1801, sold it to John McRitchie, writer, there, and in 1813 it was acquired by Archibald Gibson, W.S., Edinburgh. In the same year the Court of Session divided the estate, when George Blaikie, portioner in Appletreeleaves, who appears to have been related to the Darlings, acquired the lands of Langhaugh. In 1817 they were sold to William Clark, R.N., who is now succeeded by his son, Major Clark. In 1822 the remaining portion of the lands of Appletreeleaves passed into the hands of Mr Gibson, and, in 1843, they were acquired by William Brunton, in whose family they still remain. That part of the estate known as Darling's Haugh, extending to the south side of the Gala, comprised a small portion of the north side of Island Street, Bridge Place, Bridge Street, the north side of High Street, Sime Place, and

the north side of Channel Street, and now forms part of the Gala estate, having been acquired at various dates since 1775. The remainder of the haugh on the north side of the water came into possession of Messrs Horne & Rose, W.S., Edinburgh, about 1834, being utilised to a certain extent for the erection of Stirling Street,—then called the Tory Haugh, in reference to the political party in whose interest the buildings were erected. The superiority of the land is now vested in the trustees of Ladhope Parish Church.

The ruins of the old tower of Appletreeleaves still remain, but now only serve to form the walls of a stable or byre in connection with the adjacent cottage. Externally, the building measures thirty-one feet in length by nineteen feet in width, while the clay-built walls are three and a half feet in thickness. Owing to its elevated situation, it commands an extensive view of the surrounding district. Northward, the scene is bounded by Buckholm Hill; while, to the west, Meigle rears its head high above the neighbouring heights. On their sloping sides the ploughboy's whistle is now heard, and the yellow grain waves where once the purple heather was reflected in the limpid stream which meandered down the narrow valley. Southward, appear the ancestral oaks of the Scotts of Gala, the favourite haunt of the White Lady of Avenel, and where, it is said, the ancient Druids were wont to celebrate their unhallowed rites; while Gorgum, the wood-crowned summit of Gala Hill, keeps watch over the old village nestling below. Turning eastward, the eye wanders from the wooded heights of Abbotsford to the triple Eildons, the *Trimontium* of the old Roman invader, celebrated in Border legend and song; and, nearer, Darling's Hill completes the circle. The scene is still fair and peaceful, but the stilly solitude of the once pastoral valley has departed. Alongside the Gala stretches one of the great iron highways, over which, neither day nor night, does the traffic cease. In place of the yellow broom which once waved in wild luxuriance, buildings now cover the haughs. On the hill-side, streets diverge in every direction; and on the listening ear faintly falls the busy

hum of men, who have founded their habitations where once the timid moorfowl cowered amid the purple bloom.

Shortly after the attack upon Philip Darling, Hardie and a fellow-servant named Robert Quhippo, along with their master, George Hoppringill, made a raid upon the farm of Mitchelston, near Stow, belonging to William Pringle, litster, Edinburgh, with intent to murder the inmates, who, fortunately, were absent at the time. For this outrage, George Hoppringill became surety for £200 on behalf of Hardie and Quhippo, that they would appear before the King and answer to a complaint against them by William Pringle; but, on account of their non-appearance, they were put to the horn (outlawed), and George Hoppringill forfeited his surety money. What was the ultimate fate of Hardie is not recorded, but in the following year Quhippo was brought to trial and indicted for

- “(1) Being art and part in the thifteous steilling of ane black meir and ane brown horse pertaining to Baldie Watt in Adinston.
- (2) For taking away ten oxin and fyve ky furth of the lands of Soutraybarnes pertaining to Robert Wodell in Tranent.
- (3) Forsamekill as James Hoppringill, sone to William Hoppringill (of Mitchelston), haifing deluerit to the said Robert Quhippo the sowme of £98 to be convoyit to George Hoppringill of Blindlie for woll coft be the said James fra the said George. And in the meantyme he consultit with James Hardie, his compainzeoun, ane notorious theif, how he sould detene the said sowme: and agreit that the said James sould sett vpon him at Wompla-bush, in his passing to Blindlie with the said siluer, lykeas, he meitand with him thair, causit the said James cut his claythis, as gif ane number of theifis had set vpon him, and had tane the said siluer, with his naig from him; with the quhilk siluer he never partit, bot, be consent, staw the said siluer, and was airt and pairt with the said James Hardie in steilling thair of.”

For the defence, Quhippo objected to the judge on the ground that his wife was related to the “guidman of Gallow-scheilis,” who had taken an active part in the prosecution. This, as well as several other objections, was overruled, and the case went to trial. Upon the charge of stealing the money he was acquitted, but, being found guilty of stealing the cattle,

"The sadis justice deutes by the mouth of William Blak, dempster, ordainit the said Robert to be tane to the gibbet besyde the mercait cross of Edinburgh, and thairvpoun to be hangit quhill he was deid."

Possibly with the view of minimising, as much as possible, the effects of the frequent quarrels that were continually arising, proclamations of a precautionary nature were made at various times.

"That nane of quhat calling soevir within the cuntreyis laitlie called the Borderis of ather of the Kingdomes, sall weare, carry, or bear any pistolletis, hacquebuttis, or gunes of any sort bot in his Majesteis service apoun pane of imprisonment during his Majesteis pleasour, and further punischment according to the lawis of ather Kingdom."

Notwithstanding the manner in which the Hoppringills banded together in support of each other against all comers, they evidently reserved the luxury of fighting amongst themselves, as James Hoppringill of Gallowscheilis and George Hoppringill of Blyndley were summoned by the Privy Council to appear and answer touching

"Their bearing and shooting of pistolets at divers times, contrary to the laws, *e.g.*, discharging hagbuts and pistolets at one another beside the house of Blyndlev in September last. Both appeared, and James declared 'that he had borne and worne hacquebutis in the persute of his Majesteis rebellis allanerlie (only) quha socht his lyffe,' while George pled that he had only done the same, 'for resisting the stouthis and reiffis of thevis and revaris.'"

This statement, however, did not save them from punishment, as the King and Council ordained James to enter in ward in the castle of Edinburgh, and George within the castle of Blackness, within twenty-four hours. An effort was subsequently made to smooth matters between these two neighbours, and a charge was given them both to appear before the Privy Council, prepared to submit the feud between them to "ane amicable and freindly arbitrimet of freindis," to be nominated by that body.

1599 In 1599, during the reign of James VI., Galashiels was erected into a burgh of barony, with the right, amongst other

privileges, of holding a weekly market on Wednesdays, and a yearly fair on Midsummer Day. This concession was ratified in 1617, with an additional grant to hold a second fair on the 29th September. Again, on the resignation of Sir James Pringle, who disposed the lands of Galashiels to his grandson, James Scott, son of Hugh Scott of Deuchar, and his wife Jean Pringle, a charter of *Novodamus*, dated 9th June, 1632, was granted by Charles I. to James Scott, which was ratified the ensuing year by an Act of the Scottish Parliament, in the following terms,—

“Owre Soverane Lord and estates of this Parliment ordains ane Ratification to be maid thairine ratifiand, approvand and for his Hienes and his successors perpetuallie confirmand lykas be the tennor heirof our said Soverane Lord and estates of Parliment ratifies, approves, and for his Hienes and his successors perpetuallie confirms the Chartor maid, given, and granted be our said Soverane Lord with advise and consent of his principall thesaurer, deputhe thesaurer, and remenant Lordis of his Hienes exchequer of Scotland, his Hienes commissioners to, and in favour of, his Hienes lovitt, James Scott, eldest lawfull sone to Hugh Scott of Dewchar, procreat betwix him and Jean Pringle, his spous, dochter to Sir James Pringle of Gallowsheills, knicht—his airs male assignais quhatsumever heritable of all and haill the lands and baronie of Gallowsheills, comprehending the particular townes, lands, burgh of baronie, advocutioun, donatioun, richt of patronage, and uthers under-written, viz.:—All and haill the lands and steadings of Gallowsheills and Mosilie, with the pendicles thereof, callit nether or eister maynes of Boylesyd, Stobrig, with the tower, fortalice, mansioun, maner place, housse, biggings, wodes, cornemylnes and walkmynes thairof, and with the fishings of salmond and uthers fishings upon the water of Tweed on baith the sydes thairof, betwix the bridge of Melros and Lands of Southerlandhall, quhair the water of Atrick rines in the said river of Tweed; with all and sundrie the annexis, connexis, tennents, tennandries, service of frie tennents, pairts, pendicles, and pertinents thairof quhatsoever, with the burgh of baronie of Gallowsheills, and with all and sundrie mercatts, fairs, liberties, priviledges, jwmunites, proffits, commodities, easments and richteous pertinents pertaining and belonging thairto, togider with the advocatioun, donation, and richt of patronage of the viccarage of the Kirk of Lyndane with all priuledges, benefits, libirties, and comodities thairof lyand within the lordship of Atrick Forrest and Sherefdom of Selkirk, upon the resignation of the said Sir James Pringle, knicht, maid be him with consent of John and George Pringles, his sones, and of the said Hew Scott and Jean Pringle, his spous, and als the new gift and dispositioun contenit in the said charter maid be his Majestie to James Scott, his airs male and assignais foresaid, heretable of all and haill the said lands and baronie of Gallowsheills,

comprehending the particular townes, &c., with the unioun annexation and incorporation of the samyne in an haill and frie baronie, to be callit now and in all tyme coming as of befor the baronie of Gallowsheills, quhair of the tower, fortalice, and maner place of Gallowsheills is ordanit to be principall messuage and thair ane sasing to be takine in all tyme coming to stand and be sufficient for the haill in maner specifiet in the said chartor, as the samyne beirand the said lands and others foresaid. To be haldine of our Soverane Lord and Hienes successors in frie heritage, frie baronie and burgh of baronie, for ever in maner specifiet in the said chartor quhilk is under his Majesties great seale of the dait at Halyrudhous the nynt day of June, the yeir of God, 1<sup>st</sup> VIC threttie twa yeirs—at mair length beirs, &c.—with provision always that the present ratificatioun granted in favour of the said James Scott of Gallowsheills, nor na'pairt of the same sould be hurtfull or pfejudiciall to Robert, Earle of Roxburgh, nor to the Shireff of Forrest, thair airs nor successors in thair richt and title of the teinds personage and viccarage of the Kirk of Lyndane as titulars of the same or utherways howsomever, but that the same sould remaine to thame as befor unhurt or prejudget hereby."

The Crown rent for the barony of Gala, comprising Mossilee is £90, 10s Scots, or £7, 10s 10d sterling; while that for Blyndley is £50, 3s 4d Scots, or £4, 3s 7½d sterling.

On the 22nd April, 1692, Hugh Scott obtained a Crown charter for the barony termed, *Burgum de Gala*, in favour of himself and his son James, the *Reddendo* of this charter being "knight service," viz.:—"Finding and supporting two horsemen, one with a lance and other sufficient arms, etc., and also keeping up the manor place built of stone and lime."

In the old churchyard still stands an aisle erected by Hugh Scott of Deuchar. On a sculptured stone above the doorway is the date 1636, together with the arms and letters H. S. I. P. for Hugh Scott and Jean Pringle. With the exception of the original portion of old Gala House—should a vestige remain,—this is the oldest building in Galashiels. Originally, the interior of the aisle had been about fifteen feet square, but after the old church was removed, to which it was attached, an addition of about six feet was made to the length of the side walls, and a gable erected, in which is inserted a Gothic window having a mullion in the centre. Above the window, built into the wall, is a sculptured stone that originally occupied a position above



the door of the old church, which was erected in 1617. It is now considerably wasted and weather-worn, but the following inscription can still be deciphred,—

GLORIE . TO . GOD . IN . HEVIN  
PEACE . IN . EARTH . &  
GVDVIL . AMONG . MEN.

In all probability the Tolbooth had been erected shortly after the burgh of barony was created in 1599, as some accommodation of that nature was required. Previous to the building of the church in 1617, it was used as a place of worship. It was a building of two storeys, with a thatched roof, having attached to it a square tower, which contained a clock and bell; the clock is now in the tower of the Parish Church, but the bell has disappeared. At the door were suspended the joughs, used for the punishment of evil doers, which were an inseparable adjunct to jails and churches in the olden time; those in question were carried off to Abbotsford by Sir Walter Scott, where they are still preserved. It occupied a site on the east side of Gala Terrace, at its junction with Scott Crescent—about one hundred feet north from the Cross. In its day the Tolbooth served for a variety of purposes, at one time being used as a church, and at another as a dancing school. It was demolished about 1880. Previous to this date the ground upon which it was erected had been feued on the condition that the venerable building was not to be interfered with. A violent gale, however, damaged it considerably, and latterly it fell into such a ruinous condition as rendered it a source of danger to those in its neighbourhood, and it was reluctantly removed.

## CHAPTER IV.

**A**MONG the reports of the Historical Manuscript Commission, recently published, there is one belonging to the Earl of Lonsdale, in which occurs a narrative of a journey into Scotland in 1629, from which is extracted the following reference to the district,—

“From [Boldside] to Gallowshields, two miles, to which place is excellent good ground, and to Sir James Pringle to his house did we go, and there were wondrous courteously entertained. He is one of the best husbands in the country as appeareth by his planting and suffering his tenants to hold on him by planting 6 fruit trees or 12 other trees, and if they fail, to pay for every tree not planted 4d, he also finding two fullers mills and two corn mills. The town is a burgh barony, he himself is the Sheriff of Ettrick, and has been these three years together; he is also a Commissioner in the same Sheriffdom, of which there be divers in all the Sheriffdoms of Scotland, they being of the nature of our Justices of Assize in their circuits, above Justices of Peace, he is also a convener of justice, a Justice of Peace, he is a great man in his country.

There are of the Pringles for some eight miles up Gallow water gentlemen all of pretty seats and buildings. On the Sunday as soon as we came to the town we alighted and went to the church to him. He took us into his own seat, the one on the one side of him, the other at the other side; we heard a good sermon the fore and afternoon; there were the finest seats I have anywhere seen, and the orderliest church. Beside him is the Meageld Hill, which word Meageld was a watch word to gather those of a company when they were dispersed in war. He hath a very pretty park with many natural walks in it, artificial ponds and arbours now a making; he hath neat gardens and orchards, and all his tenants through his care, he hath abundance of cherry trees bearing a black cherry, some of which I see to be about thirty yards high and a fathom thick, great store of sycamores, trees he calleth silk trees and fir trees. He gave very great respect and said he heard of my father's fame. I see there the finest gun I ever beheld which was the King of Spain's.

In Scotland the wives alter not their surnames. They served up the dinner and supper with their hats on before their master, each dish covered with another, then was there a bason withheld for to wash our hands before we sat down, then being seated Sir James said grace. Their cheer was big pottage, long kale, bowe or white kale, which is cabbage, 'breoh sopps,

powdered beef, roast and boiled mutton, a venison pie in the form of an egg, goose, then cheese in a great company of little bits in a pewter platter and cheese also uncut, then apples, then the table cloth taken off and a towel the whole breadth of the table and half the length of it, a bason and ewer to wash, then a green carpet laid on, then one cup of beer set on the carpet, then a little long lawn servitor, plaited up a shilling or a little more broad laid cross over the corner of the table, then be there three boys to say grace, the first the thanksgiving, the second the paternoster, the third a prayer for a blessing to God's church, the goodman of the house, his parents, kinsfolk, and the whole company, then they do drink hot waters, so at supper when to bed, the collation which [is] a doupe of ale; and also in the morn and at other times when a man desireth to drink one gives them first beer, holding him the narrow servitor to dry his mouth with, and a wheat loaf and a knife, and when one has drunk he cutteth him a little bread in observance of the old rule,  
*\* Incipe cum liquido sicco finire memento.*

When we came away in the morn, Sir James set us two miles and his second, his eldest son better than four, and writ us letters to Edinburgh. The Pringles glory in that they were never but on the King's part in all the troublesome times, and they therefore of the states were envied for they never 'lowped' out with any of the Lords nor were attainted. At Sir James' house they have a thing called a palm, in nature of our ferula, but thicker for blasphemers. England and Scotland wooed roughly before they wedded. Sir John Scott, one of the secret council, is his son's wife's father.

Gallow water runneth into Tweed, and a little beneath its meeting with Tweed there hath been a very strong fortified bridge, having the tower yet standing, which was the gate to the bridge in the old time. From Gallowshields to Windeleys (Blyndley) one of the Pringles, is two miles. It stands in a dale, up which dale is a pretty wood on our left hand; within the sight of the same side another of the Pringles, his house is called Torretleys. On the other side of the water on the right hand is another of them, his house is called Buckholme, and by the water side he hath a wood called Buckholme. From thence to Herret's houses, a guest house where we alighted, is eight miles, in which space we crossed the Gallow water some twenty times."

Such is the quaint, rambling, and, at times, somewhat obscure description of the hospitality and surroundings of the house of Gala in the days before Sir James Pringle retired to Smailholm.

The fortified bridge referred to in the narrative crossed Tweed at Bridge-end, and is said to have been built, or more probably repaired, by Robert, the second Pringle in Galashiels.

\* Begin with a liquid, but remember to end with something dry (solid).

He had also a charter for the lands of Smailholm, in Roxburghshire, and Pilmuir, in Lauderdale. Sir Walter Scott records in a note to the *Monastery* that he heard an eye-witness state that he saw a stone taken from the river bearing the following inscription,—

“I, Sir John Pringle of Palmer stede,  
Give an hundred markis of gowd sae reid,  
To help to bigg my brigg ower Tweed.”

This was the draw-bridge Sir Walter used with such effect in the tales of the *Abbot* and *Monastery*, both of which are connected with the district. It has been thus described in Gordon's *Itinerarium Septentrionale*,—

“About a mile and a half from Melrose, I saw the remains of a curious bridge over the river Tweed, consisting of three octangular pillars, or rather towers, standing within the water without any arches to join them. The middle one, which is most entire, has a door toward the north, and I suppose another opposite one toward the south, which I could not see without crossing the water. In the middle of this tower is a projection or cornice surrounding it, the whole is hollow from the door upward, and now open at the top near which is a small window. I was informed that not long ago, a countryman and his family lived in this tower, and got his livelihood by laying out planks from pillar to pillar, and conveying passengers over the river.”

The Rev. Adam Milne, who was minister of Melrose (1711-1747), has left on record that in his time three pillars were still standing, and on the centre one was the arms of the Pringles of Galashiels.

At what time this bridge fell into decay is unknown, but it would appear as if it had been the only bridge over Tweed in the district till about 1750, when a stone bridge was erected in the neighbourhood of Darnick, at a place called the “Boat Sheil.” This structure, however, only lasted some seven or eight years, when it fell, and shortly afterwards the present bridge was built. Mr Adam Milne thus refers to the locality previous to the erection of the bridge,—

"To the west from Gattonside about half a mile there is a good ferry-boat on Tweed called the Westhouses boat house. This boat, having a good pool, and being the ordinary passage from the south to Edinburgh, is much frequented. They have likewise a good fishing for salmon. Above the boat is Westhouses, the old possession of the Ormistons for many years. They have a good house here with many vaults, and gun holes on every side after the old form. I have seen their names on the principal gate, *Anno* 1581. They had the custom of the bridge while it was standing. This place was in the possession of the Pringles of Blindlee for some time, and now belongs to Mr Scott of Galashiels."

The bridge is also referred to by Tennant, who made a tour through Scotland in 1772,—

"At a place called Bridge-end stood till within these few years a large pier, the remaining one of four which formed a bridge here over Tweed. In it was a gateway large enough for a carriage to pass through, and over that a room twenty-seven feet by fifteen, the residence of the person who took the tolls. This bridge was not formed with arches, but with great planks laid from pier to pier. It is said that it was built by David I. in order to afford a passage to his abbey of Melrose, which he had newly translated from its ancient site; and also to facilitate the journeys of the devout to the four great pilgrimages of Scotland, viz., Scone, Dundee, Paisley, and Melrose."

In Sir Walter Scott's time vestiges of this bridge were still in existence, as he states that he has often seen the foundations of the columns, when drifting down the Tweed for the purpose of leistering salmon by torchlight.

Reference is also made in the narrative to the tower of Blyndley, which was still standing at the beginning of this century, in the form of a strong castellated mansion. It occupied a site on the hillside, a field's breadth to the south-east of The Birks, where several old ash trees still mark the locality. Falling into a ruinous condition, it was pulled down for the sake of the building material and conveyed to Galashiels, where it was utilised in the erection of houses in Tannage Street, or Channel Street, as it is now named.

The estate of Blindlee is now merged in that of Gala, having been purchased by Hugh Scott in 1689.

## CHAPTER V.

THE original version of the song "Galla Water" is very old, but, with the exception of two verses, the words are lost. In Herd's, Johnson's, and other collections other two stanzas are interpolated, which rightly belong to a song entitled, "The silken snooded lassie," and have no connection with the fragment of the song in question, which is as follows,—

### GALLA WATER (ORIGINAL VERSION.)

Braw, braw lads of Galla Water,  
O braw lads of Galla Water;  
I'll kilt my coats aboon my knee,  
And follow my luve through the water.

O'er yon bank and o'er yon brae,  
O'er yon moss amang the heather;  
I'll kilt my coats aboon my knee,  
And follow my luve through the water.

In all probability these would be the words to which the beautiful air of "Galla Water" was written, but whether the author of either the words or the melody inhabited the cottage or the hall no record remains to tell. Dr Haydn, the celebrated German composer, admired the air, and wrote below the score of the melody in his best English, "This one Dr Haydn's favourite song."

Another version of "Gala Water" is extant, which also must be of considerable antiquity. From the reference it contains to Pringle of Galashiels, it must have been in existence previous to 1632, when Sir James Pringle conveyed the estate to his grandson, James Scott. About a hundred years ago it was generally understood in the village that the black-eyed lass of Galashiels was Jean, daughter of Sir James Pringle, but were this the case,

a great amount of poetic license has been taken with the facts regarding her. The song was extremely popular in the district, and was much more highly esteemed than the modern version by Robert Burns. The verses have no merit as poetry, and are only of interest on account of the allusions they contain to familiar places on Gala Water.

#### GALA WATER (OLD VERSION.)

Out ower yon moss, out ower yon muir,  
 Out ower yon bonnie bush o' heather,  
 O' a' ye lads whae'er ye be,  
 Shew me the way to Gala Water.

Braw, braw lads o' Gala Water,  
 Bonnie lads o' Gala Water:  
 The Lothian lads can ne'er compare  
 Wi' the braw lads o' Gala Water.

At Nettleflat we will begin,  
 And at Haltree we'll write a letter:  
 We'll down by the Bower, and take a scour,  
 And drink to the lads o' Gala Water.

There's Blindlee and Torwoodlee,  
 And Galashiels is muckle better;  
 But young Torsonce he bears the gree  
 O' a' the Pringles o' Gala Water.

Buckham is a bonnie place,  
 But Appletreelaves is muckle better;  
 But Cockleferry bears the gree  
 Frae ilk laird on Gala Water.

Lords and lairds cam' here to woo,  
 And gentlemen wi' sword and dagger;  
 But the black-eyed lass o' Galashiels  
 Wad hae nane but the gree o' Gala Water

Lothian lads are black wi' reek,  
 And Teviotdale lads are little better;  
 But she's kiltit her coats aboon her knee,  
 And gane wi' the lad o' Gala Water.

Though corn rigs are guid to see,  
 Yet flocks o' sheep are muckle better;  
 For oats will shake in a windy day,  
 When the lambs will play by Gala Water.

Adieu, "Sour Plums o' Galashiels,"  
 Farewell, my father and my mother;  
 For I'll awa wi' the black herd lad,  
 Wha keeps his flocks on Gala Water.

Braw, braw lads o' Gala Water,  
 Bonnie lads o' Gala Water,  
 Let them a' say what they will,  
 The gree gaes aye to Gala Water.

The modern song "Gala Water" was written by Robert Burns in 1793 for Thomson's collection. It is evident that he had been acquainted with the foregoing version, as well as the original, and it is interesting to note how the great poet has caught and condensed the pervading sentiment.

The following is the modern version, the words "Braw, braw lads" being sung as a refrain at the conclusion of each verse,—

#### GALA WATER (MODERN VERSION.)

Braw, braw lads on Yarrow braes,  
 Ye wander thro' the blooming heather;  
 But Yarrow braes, nor Ettrick shaws  
 Can match the lads o' Gala Water.

But there is ane, a secret ane,  
 Aboon them a' I lo'e him better;  
 And I'll be his, and he'll be mine,  
 The bonnie lad o' Gala Water.

Altho' his daddie was nae laird,  
 And tho' I hae na meikle tocher,  
 Yet rich in kindest, truest love,  
 We'll tent our flocks by Gala Water.

It ne'er was wealth, it ne'er was wealth,  
 That coft contentment, peace, or pleasure;  
 The bands and bliss o' mutual love,  
 O, that's the chiefest warld's treasure.



1655 In 1655 the lands and manor of Galashiels were in the possession of persons named Andro, probably for debt and subject to redemption. At that date, Patrick Andro of Barbourland was served heir to his father, John Andro, in the barony, "With the lands of over and nether Hauches, and three waulkmills, the lands of Netherbarnes, the lands of Boilsyde, with the fishings and ferry boat on the Tweed, from Gala mouth to Ettrick, &c."

It would appear, however, that the estate was redeemed shortly afterwards, judging from the following copy of a manuscript belonging to the Gala family, which has been fortunately preserved. It affords information regarding the rental of Galashiels at that date, together with the names of the tenants and the extent of their holdings. In this case the "twelve soume mailer" occupied sufficient land to maintain two horses or cows, or twenty sheep, while the "sax soume mailer" could only keep stock to half that amount.

THE RENTALE OF THE LANDS AND BARRONRIE  
OF GALLASCHEILES, 1656.

1656

The rents ar to be payed at two tearmes, viz.:—Whitsonday and Mertimes as followes:—

## 12 SOUME MAILERS.

William Wilsone, elder,	...	...	£ Scots	26	13	4
Rot. Haldone, and a bole malt,	...	...	...	26	13	4
Alexr Speiding,	...	...	...	26	13	4
Johne Crouckes,	...	...	...	26	13	4
Williame Maben,	...	...	...	26	13	4
Andro Peca,	...	...	...	26	13	4
Johne Wilsone, elder,	...	...	...	26	13	4
Adame Patersone,	...	...	...	26	13	4
Robert Mabon,	...	...	...	33	6	8
William Frier,	...	...	...	32	0	0

Suma, 278 13 4

## 6 SOUME MAILERS.

George Frier, millir,	...	...	...	15	2	8
George Dobson,	...	...	...	20	0	0
William Clappertoune,	...	...	...	30	0	0
Adam Haldone,	...	...	...	13	6	8
Johne Purvis,	...	...	...	13	6	8
Johne Mersell,	...	...	...	13	6	8

Forward, £ Scots 105 2 8

6 SOUME MAILERS, *continued*—

Brought forward, £ Scots					105	2	8
Thomas Gill,	...	...	...	...	13	6	8
Johne Patersone,	...	...	...	...	13	6	8
Jeane Dods,	...	...	...	...	13	6	8
John Haldone, elder,	...	...	...	...	13	6	8
Jennet Frater,	...	...	...	...	13	6	8
Rot. Clekie,	...	...	...	...	13	6	8
John Wilsone, younger,	...	...	...	...	20	0	0
George Patersone, burgis,	...	...	...	...	13	6	8
Adam Wilsone,	...	...	...	...	15	0	0
William Wilsone, younger,	...	...	...	...	13	6	8
Gorge Frier, called <i>Ballie</i> ,	...	...	...	...	13	6	8
Gorge Young,	...	...	...	...	13	6	8
Rot. Speiding,	...	...	...	...	13	6	8
Rot. Broune,	...	...	...	...	20	0	0
Issobell Young,	...	...	...	...	20	0	0
William Wilsone, weifer,	...	...	...	...	30	0	0
James Wightman,	...	...	...	...	6	13	4
Andro Scletter,	...	...	...	...	6	13	4
<i>Suma,</i>					370	2	8

## COATTERS SOWING A BOLE OF CORNE.

Thomas Patersone,	...	...	...	...	10	0	0
Hew Young,	...	...	...	...	10	0	0
Jennet Blekie,	...	...	...	...	10	0	0
James Mophit,	...	...	...	...	12	0	0
William Patersone, weifer,	...	...	...	...	11	0	0
John Haldone, younger,	...	...	...	...	10	0	0
David Peca,	...	...	...	...	13	6	8
Archibald Wilsone,	...	...	...	...	10	0	0
Jennet Andersone,	...	...	...	...	24	0	0
Jo. Hervie,	...	...	...	...	8	0	0
Johne Gill,	...	...	...	...	13	6	8
Robert Frier, talior,	...	...	...	...	8	0	0
Robert Morice,	...	...	...	...	8	0	0
Adame Sadler,	...	...	...	...	8	0	0
Johne Persone,	...	...	...	...	8	0	0
James Clenmane,	...	...	...	...	8	0	0
Richard Frater,	...	...	...	...	8	0	0
Jo. Patersone, weifer,	...	...	...	...	8	0	0
Jo. Claghorne (entered at Mert. 1656, and pays £20 in ye year).							
Thomas Couke,	...	...	...	...	8	0	0

Forward, £ Scots 195 13 4

## HISTORY OF GALASHIELS.

COATTERS SOWING A BOLE OF CORNE, *continued*—

Brought forward, £ Scots					195	13	4
James Taiet,	...	...	...	...	8	0	0
Thomas Watsonsone, garner,	...	...	...	...	8	0	0
Jennet Williamsone,	...	...	...	...	8	0	0
<i>Suma,</i>					219	13	4

## COATTERS SOWING HALF A BOLE CORNE.

John Dobsone,	...	...	...	...	6	0	0
Georg Patersone, wright,	...	...	...	...	10	0	0
Thomas Watersone, weifer,	...	...	...	...	4	0	0
Wm. Williamsone,	...	...	...	...	4	0	0
Thomas Sadler,	...	...	...	...	4	0	0
Wm. Furgriefe,	...	...	...	...	6	0	0
Rot. Ammers,	...	...	...	...	9	0	0
Margrat Frater,	...	...	...	...	4	0	0
<i>Suma,</i>					47	0	0

## UNDER COATERS THAT HES HOUSE AND YARD.

Archibald Waker,	...	...	...	...	6	0	0
Wm. Burne,	...	...	...	...	6	0	0
Thomas Frater,	...	...	...	...	6	0	0
Archibald Frier,	...	...	...	...	6	0	0
Wm. Couke, drayster,	...	...	...	...	2	0	0
Jennet Frier,	...	...	...	...	6	0	0
Margrat Clekie,	...	...	...	...	6	0	0
Jennet Aldjoy,	...	...	...	...	1	0	0
Jo. Sadler, ...	...	...	...	...	1	10	0
Jennet Clenmaine,	...	...	...	...	2	0	0
Marrione Couke,	...	...	...	...	1	0	0
David Pringill,	...	...	...	...	2	0	0
Issobell Maben,	...	...	...	...	1	10	0
James Haldone,	...	...	...	...	12	0	0
Thomas Elphinstoune,	...	...	...	...	4	0	0
Margrat Riddell,	...	...	...	...	1	10	0
Catrine Dods,	...	...	...	...	15	0	
Jo. Barrie, ...	...	...	...	...	6	0	0
Robt. Frier, miller	...	...	...	...	4	10	0
James Donnelstone,	...	...	...	...	3	0	0
William Murray,	...	...	...	...	2	0	0
Robt. Wilsonsone,	...	...	...	...	1	0	0
Robt. Frier, fletcher,	...	...	...	...	6	0	0
Wm. Speiding,	...	...	...	...	13	6	8
<i>Suma,</i>					101	1	8

The soume of the mailles wt in the toune of Gallascheils extends in the year to ... ..	£ Scots 1016 11 0
The three walkmilns payes in the year £60 and 3 stone of napes,	60 0 0
The Cornemillne of Gallascheils payes in the year 1656, 58 bolles victuall half meal, half malt, wt ane fat sow and two dousone of capons.	
The Nather Maines of Gallascheils payes this year 20 bolles of victuall halfe meill halfe beir wt ane dousone of fowls, halfe hens halfe capons, at the candilmest, 1658.	
The Over Maines payes this year 13 bolles of victuall the one halfe beir the other halfe meill at the candelmis in the 1658.	
The teind of Gallascheils wt Boldsyde payes this year 1656,	433 0 0
The Customes payes this year 1656, the one half at mertimes, the other halfe at Whitsonday, extending to ...	215 0 0
The teind land payes ... ..	78 9 0
Mossilies and Clekburne payes this year 1656, wt a dousone of hens and a dousone of capons, ... ..	
Stokbrige payes wt a dousone of hens and a dousone of capons,	400 0 0
Natherbarns payes wt the halfe of the Crowne, ...	666 13 0
Boldsyde wt aught hens at Fastrines even, ... ..	156 0 0
Cobels and fichings, ... ..	40 0 0
The twelfe soume mailers are to pay for ther longie and short avriages in the year, ... ..	
The sax soume is to pay ... ..	2 0 0
Everie twelfe soume mailer payes 2 hens at Fastrines even and 2 capons at pache.	
Everie sax soume mailer pays 1 hen at Fastrines even and 1 capon at pache.	
Coaters and under coaters payes ane hen at Fastrines even.	

The new conditiones that was set doune in Hew Scot of Gallascheils his tyme as follows,—

The mailors they ar obliged ay and while the goodman take the land in his owne hand to work, to teill, harow, to sheir, to lead in also muche land as will sow sixtine bolles whiche he reserves in his owne hand. As also they ar obliged to bring home the elding or any suche lying about the place, all this they are bound to doe wt out meat or drinke.

At that time the Coaters was ordained to pay 40 sh. mor for the bole of corne sowing, and so was exenned from worke.

And thes that hes halfe a bole of corne sowing payed 20 sh., and so was exenned from worke.

It is stated that at one time portions of the barony were set apart for cultivation by the retainers of the House of Gala. These were called "Wauker-riggs," some of which were near the Windyknowe, while others were in the Eastlands. The occupiers of these rigs were bound to rise, on being summoned by the Laird, to repel English invasion, or perform any other military service that might be required. Others, who were under obligation to turn out on horseback, held much larger portions of that land now comprised in the farm of Hollybush.

## CHAPTER VI.

**H**ITHERTO the references to Galashiels and vicinity, contained in contemporary records, have applied more to those who owned the land upon which the town is built than to the village or its early inhabitants. A stage in its history is now reached in which those men who hitherto had lived unknown, come to the front, and who might have pursued the even tenor of their way had not persecution forced them into fame. Under the government of Charles II. a moderate Episcopacy had been introduced as the established religion of Scotland, and the parish pulpits were filled with men whose opinions were orthodox, according to the interpretation of the Government. Naturally the people preferred their own pastors to the curates who had been forced upon them, but this the Government would not tolerate; conformity was demanded, and dissent was construed into rebellion. The Presbyterian ministers were forbidden to preach, and the people who attended their ministrations were put under heavy penalties. Prevented from meeting openly, they held conventicles, or field meetings, as opportunity afforded, at such times and in such lonely places as they imagined would secure them from an attack by the "bloody Claver's," or those with whom his name is so intimately associated.

The first notice regarding the doings of the villagers refers to their contumacy in declining to attend the ministrations of the Episcopalian curate, Thomas Wilkie, who held the living of  
1665 Galashiels between 1665 and 1672. They preferred to go to Dryburgh to hear Henry Erskine, to the banks of the Gala to listen to the exhortations of John Blackadder, or to Ashiestiel, a noted place for dissent at that period. This state of matters was tolerated for a short time only, and, for asserting their liberty of conscience, several weavers had to flee

from Galashiels. One of these men was George Frater, a second, Adam Paterson, and a third was Thomas Wilson. They had their looms confiscated and their dwellings despoiled; Adam Paterson, in addition, having to pay a fine of 400 merks. Not content with a mere passive resistance, some of the villagers took up arms, and, at the battle of Bothwell Bridge, two of them, Robert McGill and Robert Young, were taken captive.

1679 On the 24th June, 1679, twelve hundred prisoners, including those named and also several others who belonged to the village and district, were crowded into Greyfriars Churchyard in Edinburgh, and kept there for nearly five months. In that cheerless place their only couches were the graves, and their covering the sky; no shelter was provided either from rain or cold. Their clothing fell to rags, and the amount of food they received barely sufficed to keep body and soul together. When the month of November approached, an offer of liberty was made to all who would sign a bond of a certain kind, and some of them were tempted to yield. McGill and Young, however, refused, and they, along with 255 others, were driven down to Leith, and stowed in the hold of a vessel not capable of properly accommodating half their number. The ship sailed for the plantations, but a storm arose, and, when near the Orkney Islands, the hatches were fastened down. The vessel struck, and the crew left the miserable sufferers to drown. When the wreck broke up, McGill and a few others managed to reach land, but Robert Young perished a martyr to his principles, no less than those who suffered at the stake.

“These on tradition’s tongue shall live, these shall  
On history’s honest page be pictured bright  
To latest times.”

Another case occurred in the district, the heroine on this occasion being a young woman, the daughter of James Moffat, tenant of Netherbarns. Jean Moffat had attended a conventicle held in the district by one of the deposed Presbyterian ministers. She was summoned before the court at

Selkirk, and, because she would not attend the ministrations of the curate at Galashiels, her father had to pay a fine in order to save her from imprisonment. Afterwards a second fine of 1000 merks was imposed upon him, and, subsequently, the dragoons appeared at Netherbarns and carried away everything they could lay their hands upon. Jean was conveyed to Edinburgh prison, and, in course of time, was transferred to Dunottar Castle. Here, with a number of others, she was thrust into a vault, ankle deep in mud, where several died; while some who endeavoured to escape were put to the torture. Eventually she was transported to New Jersey, and thence to New England. When the tide of persecution turned, Jean Moffat, in 1686, became the wife of James Fraser, a banished Covenanting minister. They returned to Scotland, where he became minister of Glencorse, in the Presbytery of Dalkeith; whence he was translated to Alness in 1695, where he died in 1711.

On one occasion, in 1679, Claverhouse and his dragoons surprised a conventicle that was being held at Meigle Potts, conducted, it is supposed, by Mr Thomas Wilkie, the deposed minister of Lilliesleaf. The audience was principally composed of ladies from Torwoodlee, Ashiestiel, Galashiels, &c., who were cited to appear before the court, and were heavily fined, the minister being imprisoned on the Bass Rock.

After Charles II. ascended the throne, George Pringle of Torwoodlee fell under the displeasure of the Government on account of his adherence to the Covenant. The Pringles were among the first in the district who stood up for the Reformation. George Pringle fought for King Charles in nearly all the actions he had against Cromwell in Scotland, yet his services availed him nothing after the Restoration. For simply acting as a Justice of the Peace in the days of Cromwell, he was severely fined. He never conformed to Episcopacy; and, though taking no part in the struggles at Rullion Green, Drumclog, or Bothwell Bridge, his house was a sanctuary for all the persecuted who required shelter and hospitality.



1681 One dark December night in 1681 a man rode swiftly to Torwoodlee and asked for the master. He was heartily welcomed and entertained. The next morning a fresh horse, money, and a trusty servant were placed at his disposal, and he rode off. The stranger was the Earl of Argyle, who afterwards suffered as a martyr, and who, the previous day, had escaped from Edinburgh Castle. In his flight to England he was recognised, as well as the servant who accompanied him.

Troubles began to fall thick and fast upon the House of Torwoodlee, and George Pringle had to go into hiding. Three years afterwards he was fined 5000 merks Scots on account of his refusal to attend the ministrations of the curate at Galashiels; and a second time, for the same reason, he was relieved of £2000 sterling. Shortly afterwards rumours of plots against the Government were rife, and several apprehensions were made in the district. George Pringle, however, having received timely warning, escaped to Holland. When the dragoons arrived and found he had fled they seized his son James, a lad of sixteen years of age, and carried him off to Edinburgh, where he lay in prison for three months. Eventually he was admitted to bail in a sum of £5000, but was not allowed to leave Edinburgh. Two months afterwards he was brought before the Council, presided over by the Duke of Queensberry. He was asked to conform to the religion established by Government, but refused. He was also requested to give information regarding his father, but this met with no better success. The executioner was brought in with his instruments of torture. Queensberry roughly threatened if he did not give the desired information every bone in his body would be broken, every joint disjointed, his flesh ripped up, and boiling lead and oil poured into him. Young Pringle stood firm, however, and he was again imprisoned in Edinburgh Castle. In the absence of George Pringle, the lands of Torwoodlee were declared forfeited, and annexed to the Crown. They were afterwards bestowed upon Lieutenant-General Drummond, one of the Court party. At length the trials and sufferings of the family

came to an end, and at the Revolution the estate was again restored to them. George Pringle was a member of the Scottish Parliament which voted the crown to William of 1689 Orange. He died in 1689 much and deservedly regretted.

## CHAPTER VII.

FOR the following hundred years the principal source of information regarding the village is contained in the Session records, belonging to the Parish Church. They throw light upon an interesting period in the history of the people, illustrating to a large extent the manners and customs of the villagers. Any one perusing these old minutes cannot fail to be struck with the extraordinary amount of labour and attention involved in having been a member of Kirk Session at that period. For some time after the Reformation in Scotland it was required that elders and deacons should

“Be made every year once,—lest of long continuance of such offices, men presume upon the liberty of the Kirk.”

A different and much stronger reason is assigned in Knox's history,—

“Quhilk burdane thay patientlie sustained a yeir and mair and then becaus they could not (without neglecting of their awen private houses) langer wait upoun the publick charge, they desyred that they micht be releaved and that uthers micht be burdened in thair rounge. Quhilk was thocht a petitioun ressonabil of the hail Kirk.”

The usual practice at the present day is to take up no cases of scandal except such as are notorious, and cannot be overlooked without bringing reproach upon the cause of religion. Elders in those days took a very different view of their duty. To neglect even an alleged fault appeared, in their opinion, to connive at sin. All offences, therefore, of word or deed, such as swearing, defamation of character, falsehood, unchastity, drunkenness, fighting, stealing, Sabbath-breaking, and many others of a less heinous nature, were at once taken up and investigated. Offenders were visited with sharp rebuke and censure, administered by the minister in the presence of the

Session; and, if the scandal was of a more aggravated character, before the assembled congregation during the course of the service. There were no police in the village at this period, and the Baron Bailie was the only functionary who had power to administer punishment to ordinary offenders against the laws of the barony. The Kirk Session, however, performed all the duties devolving upon judge, jury, and police. Though their procedure may sometimes have been rigid and unwise, it was administered in good faith and without partiality.

Offenders against ecclesiastical law were summoned by the "bedell," and the case was gone into with all the formality of a modern court of justice. Witnesses were cited, put on oath, examined and cross-examined. Their evidence was taken in writing, which they were required to sign, though, in many cases, it was found that they were unable to write their own names. If the evidence did not clearly point to a definite conclusion, the alleged culprit did not get the benefit of the doubt. In these cases procedure was sisted, till Providence was pleased to shed further light on the matter. This, of course, to the accused, meant suspension from Church privileges till such time as the desired light was vouchsafed, or, as sometimes occurred, the party implicated requested the oath of Purgation to be administered in presence of the assembled congregation. The terms of this oath varied in different localities, the following being one form used on such occasions,—

"I, A. B., do swear by the great eternal God as I shall be judged at the last and most terrible day that I never was guilty of . . . Wishing that all the plagues threatened and pronounced against the breakers of the law may be inflicted upon me, both in this life and the life to come, if this be not the truth that I have sworn."

The course of discipline for the different offences varied; some were fined and publicly admonished, and others escaped with a rebuke administered in the presence of the Session. Some, while undergoing discipline, were allowed to occupy their usual seats; those whose offences were of a more aggravated and scandalous character, had to take up their position at the

“pillar,” this being the term by which the public place of repentance was usually designated. Some offenders appeared in their ordinary Sabbath attire; others, in cases of grievous scandal, in sackcloth or a linen sheet. This penance continued at the pleasure of the Session, till they considered that the reproach had been removed.

In all the various cases that occurred, the authority of the Session was never called in question, each one summoned appearing at the appointed time and place. The elders acted as a sort of inquisition, investigating into the ecclesiastical profession of all within the parish, and they were careful to exclude such persons as they considered unfit to consort with the parishioners. Strangers had to produce certificates from the parish they came from before they were permitted to take up their abode in the village; and any parishioner found harbouring any one who could not show the necessary document was dealt with by the Session, and, if contumacious, was handed over to the Sheriff.

There was an old Act of Parliament which empowered sheriffs to appoint what were called Session bailies in parishes that had no resident magistrate. These bailies were members of the Kirk Session, and were commissioned to put certain laws affecting public morals into execution. This office was not usually coveted; one minister on the Borders reported to his Presbytery that those who were elected would not condescend to be the Session's bailie, and the heritors had to perform the duties by rotation.

An enactment by the Session of Galashiels, in 1679, is very suggestive of the state of public morality prevailing at that time, and is to the following effect,—

“Ye minister and elders ordained that the present treasurer receive from the parties to be married either 4 dollars to be kept till the three quarters of ane year expired, or 14 shillings Scots presently to be paid for the use of the poor, together with a sufficient cautioner, who must give a line under his hand, for 4 dollars, in case the parties be found guiltie of breaking the order of the Church,”

Taught by experience, the Session evidently believed that a bird in the hand was worth two in the bush; yet, in many cases, they encountered great difficulty in obtaining payment of the fines, owing to the poverty of the people.

Another entry deals with the case of several "wyffs and maides," who were summoned to appear before the Session, the "wyffs" for running races, and the "maides" for "putting" the cannon stone, and thereby gathering a crowd of people. The "maides" of the village over two hundred years ago must have belonged to the Amazonian order; and, for obvious reasons, this particular form of recreation has fallen into desuetude. But in modern outdoor gatherings, held in the summer months by the employees in the various factories, both "wyffs and maides" indulge in foot-racing to their hearts' content, none daring to make them afraid.

Not only were the walk and conversation of those resident in the parish carefully supervised, but any who had occasion to be from home had to render an account of the manner they had spent the Sabbath. In 1648 the General Assembly decreed that,

" Travellers, carriers, and others, whose business took them from home on the Sabbath, had to bring testimonials from the place where they rested these Sabbaths wherein they were from home."

It is evident that some of the villagers had been found guilty of breaking the Fourth Commandment, as three men and two women were ordered to give public satisfaction for having set out on the Sabbath with webs of "grey" to Selkirk fair. Not only had the inhabitants been addicted to Sabbath-breaking in their anxiety to dispose of their goods, but, some of them were equally culpable in regard to the method of its production, as in 1764, William Wilson in the Netherhaugh, had to make a public appearance on account of

" Allowing his wakmylne to goe to Sabbath morning at daylight, sq causing offence to those within hearing."

This action not only constituted an offence against ecclesiastical law, but was also an infringement of an Act of the Scottish Parliament, passed in 1649, which made it penal for any one to work a "walkmilne" between midnight and midnight on the Lord's day.

Whether it was a work of necessity or mercy, does not appear, but for mending a sack upon the Sabbath day, Thomas Gill was adjudged either to pay a fine of 30s, or sit on the "drucken stool" and suffer public rebuke. The culprit in this case had evidently been possessed of some means, as he preferred to pay the fine. In reading over the various cases which occupied the attention of the Session at this date, it is evident that they spent a considerable amount of their time and labour in striving to make clean the outside of the platter, which only can account for Janet Hyton being sharply rebuked for carrying in water on the Sabbath day.

The parental care exercised over the parishioners was of the most searching nature, however frivolous might be the occasion. It is recorded that

"The session ordered their officer to cite Joan Brown and Jean Sanders, servants in Galashiels, to appear before them in regard to their scandalous carriage with some souldiers then quartered in the town."

As a matter of course, the offenders appeared, but the charge was found to be of such a trifling nature that they were rebuked before the Session and passed without further censure.

1695 In 1695 the Session had evidently found their duties to be too onerous, and they resolved to appoint a magistrate who might put the law into execution throughout the whole parish. With this object in view, intimation was made from the pulpit, and the electorate met for the above purpose. These comprised the Lairds of Gala, elder and younger; the Laird of Middlestead, younger; the Laird of Brig Haugh; the Minister and the Session. The Laird of Gala acted as chairman, and after several candidates had been proposed, it was found that Robert Kerr of Prieston

had been chosen by a majority of votes. James Scott, elder, was also appointed collector of the fines, and shortly afterwards this election was confirmed by "the Sheriffs of Teviotdale and Forest, where the said paroch does lie."

Nothing was allowed to escape the watchful care of the Session, reports of any kind, however vague, were sifted and enquired into. Rumours of a party having been guilty of drinking in George Haddon's house resulted in the said George, his wife, and John Kerr, his man, being interviewed by the minister and four of the elders. Their report stated that

"They found that those persons who had been in George Haddon's (some of whom dwelt at the Rink) were waiting for the moon to rise, and that there had not been excess in drink, and some of the persons being well reported of, they were allowed to pass with a private rebuke from the minister."

It is also recorded at the same time that the Session had heard of some persons in and about the town "keeping up variance one at another, and not living in good Christian neighbourhood." The several elders were enjoined to take note how much of this conduct occurred in their respective districts, and to labour to get such variances removed, otherwise to report to the Session to have their concurrence for suppressing and reclaiming such behaviour. If the walk and conversation of the parishioners were not all that could be desired, it was not from the want of careful supervision on the part of the Session. The General Assembly recommended that

"Every elder should have a certain round assigned to him, that he may visit it once a month at least, and report to the Session what scandals are therein, or what persons have entered without testimonials."

In 1648 an Act of Assembly made it imperative "that all persons who flit from one paroch to another have sufficient testimonials." These, of course, had to be produced on request, and they at once showed whether the holder was married or single, whether under or free from scandal. This system would of itself have proved most effective in keeping the parish clear of all

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undesirable characters, but the elders of Galashiels, not content with the absolute power they already possessed, went a step  
1696 farther, as, in 1696, they are found declaring

“That no strangers should be suffered to be employed in the toun or parrochine without producing testimonials, and that each elder in his bounds should be careful in disclosing the said persons. The Session called for an account of what strangers now harboured in and about the toun, coming from the north and other places.”

After the various reports had been received, it was agreed that, if those who entertained these persons did not at once dismiss them, they would be cited to appear before the Session.

The authority assumed by the Church Courts in those days, particularly the inquisitorial power exercised over individuals, is a most remarkable feature of the time, serving to show how limited in their application were the principles of civil and religious liberty, even by those who made the highest profession.

It has been said that history repeats itself, and the following enactments passed by the Session two hundred years ago, bear a striking resemblance to the action of the local licensing authority within recent years,—

“The Session being mett (being Tuesday after preaching) they did pass ane act for suppressing of ungodliness and prophanity the tenor whereof follows.

That they who continue drinking in taverns and ale-houses after ten o'clock at night, or idlie hant the same in daytime tippling therein beyond the necessitie of ordinarie and reasonable refreshment shall be held as drunkards, and they also who sell them drink to excess or beyond due time shall be censured.

That they who suffer their children to play upon the Sabbath, and such who idlie vage abroad upon the Lord's day, and especialie in the time of public worship, shall be censured as Sabbath-breakers.

That they who pass into taverns and ale-houses on the Lord's day wilfullie and prophanlie remaining from church in the time of worship, also they who receive and entertain them in their houses at such times, shall be repute and censured both as drunkards and prophaners of the Sabbath.”

The Kirk of Scotland never went the length of forbidding the use of liquor, nor of attempting to make abstinence from alcohol a condition of Church membership. She simply acted in accordance with the social usages of the time when total-abstinence had not emerged as a principle; but, on the other hand, she restrained as far as possible all excessive drinking by forbidding publicans from supplying liquor beyond reasonable requirements, or at unreasonable hours.

## CHAPTER VIII.

**A**S the Poor Laws had not yet come into existence, the Session, with the co-operation of the heritors, attended to the ingathering and distribution of the money raised for the relief of the poor. The state of the fund was regularly made up, and strict account was kept of the receipts and payments. When the necessity for aliment was thought to have ceased, the recipients were at once cut off from all further participation in the fund. One minute quaintly records that

“Margaret Broad and Isobel Mather were scraped out of the poor's roll, in regard they can make a fend for themselves.”

1698      Anent the condition of the poor in 1698, it is recorded,—

“The Laird of Gala, and Middlestead, and the Kirk Session met, and ordered that every heritor should maintain their own poor within their own land for a quarter of a year to come, likewise, to take care that some one be appointed to keep strangers out of their respective bounds. Also, that the house-holders within the toun should pay £3 Scots per week, and those out of the toun should pay 6s Scots per week upon the thousand merks within the Baronie, and appointed John Donaldsone, and James Paterson to be collectors thereof, and William Haddon to be officer under the said collectors, in expelling strangers and vagabonds out of the Baronie, for which there is allowed the said officer £4 Scots per quarter.”

This is the first mention in the history of the town of a salaried official whose duties, to a certain extent, corresponded to those of a modern policeman.

The following entry, dated 1751, shows the state of the fund, the number of poor in the parish, and the amount paid for aliment at that period in the town's history,—

“The heritors proceeded to call for an account of the public funds or Poor's Box, and found the same to contain the sum of two thousand three hundred and sixty-seven pounds, six shillings, and tenpence Scots, consisting

of bonds, bills, and cash. Those infirm or in distress in the Parish amounted to six, to whom the following weekly pensions were allocated,—George Butler, in Kilknow, sixpence; John Small, with his wife and child, sixteenpence; Margaret Robieson, sixpence; Katherin Wilson, twelvepence; Isabel Watson, sixpence; and Daniel Murray, sixpence."

Sabbath observance seems to have exercised the minds of the minister and Session to a considerable extent. Under Popery and Episcopacy, the people had been accustomed to great liberty on the Sabbath. King James, "the Defender of the Faith," published a work called *The Book of Sports*, in which he specified a number of amusements and field exercises which he thought might be lawfully and innocently enjoyed on that day. With the view of providing for the better defence of the country, practice with the bow and arrow was enjoined upon all able to take part in the exercise. The spear was the favourite weapon of the Scottish infantry at this time. Its length varied from fifteen to eighteen feet, and, from constant practice, it was handled with great dexterity. But it proved of little avail against the English bowmen; this the kings of Scotland had realized, and they sought by every effort to induce the people to learn the use of the bow.

In 1491 it was ordained that

"In na place of the realme be vsit fut baus, gouff, or vthir sic vnprofitable sports, bot for comon gude and defence of the realme be hantit (practiced) bowis schuting and markis tharfore ordinit."

One of the most precise Acts regarding the necessity for this practice states that

"It is decreed and ordained that the displays of weapons be held four times in the year, and that the football and golf be utterly cried down, and not used. That the bow marks be made, a pair of butts at every parish church, and shooting be practised. That every man shoot six shots at least, and that twopence be levied upon those absent, for drink to the shooters."

The Bow Butts Close, which still exists, adjoining the old churchyard, doubtless points to the locality where at one time

the villagers of Galashiels, over twelve and under sixty years of age, found opportunity for practice with the bow and arrow on Sabbath afternoons at the conclusion of divine service.

1699 In order that the Sabbath might be properly observed, it was ordained in 1699

“That every Sabbath day the elder that collects the poor money at the church door, and the elder that collected the day before, should go in time of sermon to several places in the town, as well in the forenoon as in the afternoon, and search and observe if there be any abuse committed, and when any is, that they report the same to the Session.”

Not only were the outdoor life and public behaviour of the parishioners supervised with a grandmotherly solicitude, but householders were hardly allowed to exercise their liberty in the privacy of their own homes. Another minute states that

“The Session being informed that some masters of families do sit up late at night playing at cards, they appoint George Hall and John Donaldson to admonish them privately to desist from such a course.”

Tradition states that in 1699 a deadly plague visited the village and carried off a number of the inhabitants. Those afflicted were conveyed to the Darkheugh, where they were attended to by “cleaners,” or individuals who had recovered from the malady. Those who died were buried near the same place, where two large unhewn stones, called “The Plague Stones,” marked the spot.

That a visitation of this nature took place is beyond doubt, as shown by the Session records of September 24th, 1699, in the following terms,—

“The Session taking it into their consideration the great sickness that rageth in the country, wherewith many in this Paroch are visited with, do find it to be their duty that each elder frequently visit the sick in their respective quarters, with whom they are enjoined to pray with, confere, and discourse about matters tending to the edification and eternal welfare of their souls.”

In connection with these visitations, once so prevalent, but which have now almost disappeared in this country, the Stow Session records contain the following curious entry in regard to the first mention of a Galashiels doctor,—

“ 29th August, 1632. The qlk day Andro Pringill in Gallosheils being hyred to haill the pyper, his wyff, and his bairne of ye seeknesses, he produced yame befor the Session saying yat they were haill and feir, and promiseit hereafter if ever yt seekness fell to yame agane he suld mend yame on his awn expensis, whilk he subscrivit with his hand at ye pen of ye clerk and witnesses under-subscrivand.”

A custom, now more honoured in the breach than the observance, used to prevail in the village, viz., the holding of what were styled “penny weddings.” On these occasions all were welcome, provided they paid their share of the expense. The scenes of feasting, drinking, dancing, wooing, and fighting extended over two or three days, and, after the expenses were met, the balance was handed over to the newly-married couple. With the view of modifying the prevailing abuses,

“ The General Assembly considering the great profanitie and several abuses which usually fal forth at Pennie-Brydals, proving fruitful seminaries of all lasciviousnesse and debauserie, as well by the excessive number of people conveened thereto, as by the extortion of them therein, and licentiousnesse thereat, ordain every Presbytery in the Kingdom to take such speciall care for restraining these abuses, as they shall think fit in their severall bounds respective.”

The Session therefore appointed that, after service on some Lord's day, public attention should be drawn to the desirability of altering this usage to a considerable extent.

While the elders promulgated laws for securing good behaviour and enjoined the villagers to observe the same, they also took steps to satisfy themselves that their recommendations were properly observed; and, with this object in view, they

“ Appointed two elders to go successively, hereafter, through the taverns and alehouses after ten o'clock at night, when their affairs can allow, especially upon Saturday nights, and search and observe if there be any drinking in the said alehouses after the foresaid hour, and when they observe any to delate them to the Session.”

Those attending to any secular employment on the Sabbath were also strictly dealt with. It is recorded that Alexander Speedin, smith, and his servant, were charged with having shod a horse upon the Sabbath. Alexander appeared and admitted his guilt, and was publicly rebuked in his own pew the following Sabbath. On account of his youth, the servant was privately admonished.

Grievances of every kind and degree were brought before the Session for redress. In one case James Speedin, in Whytbank, complained that Andrew Walker, merchant in Galashiels, had called him a thief. On being summoned, Andrew admitted the charge, and was ordered to appear before the congregation and receive public rebuke. Incompatibility of temper was likewise an offence. Thomas Mercer and his wife were sharply rebuked for scandalous disagreement betwixt themselves, and cautioned that, if such conduct should occur again, they would be called upon to make a public appearance. Adam Murray, skinner, likewise had to give satisfaction, by making a public appearance, for having defamed William Scott by calling him "knave, villain, liar, rascal, thief, and loon."

Notwithstanding the multiplicity of alehouses and the facility which existed for indulging to excess in liquor, drunkenness does not seem to have prevailed to any great extent, it being particularly noteworthy how few cases of this nature are recorded. In one of these, Mary Donaldson, Kathrine Elliot, and Marion Williamson were charged with drinking in Will Elliot's house in the time of public worship on the Lord's day. The Session had the accused before them, but they stoutly denied having been drinking at all. Finding that the evidence would not sustain the indictment, they were admonished and dismissed. This case bears a remarkable likeness to a decision said to have been given by a Galashiels Magistrate in the early days of the town's existence as a police burgh. The dignitary in question found that the evidence in some trifling case was too weak to support

the charge. In place of dismissing the case as not proven, he gravely remarked, "Weel, as the case hasna been very clearly proved against 'e, a'll let 'e off for half-a-croon, an' 'e manna do't again."

The passion for fishing appears to have been deeply ingrained in the villagers, and, as is too often the case at the present day, not content with their opportunities during six days of the week, it is repeatedly found that they were in the habit of borrowing a few hours from the seventh. In one case of this nature, the offenders, in a body, expiated their offence by appearing at the head of the foremost pew, below the common loft, to receive public rebuke. Were this procedure carried into effect now, a very considerable addition would require to be made to the space in question, in order to accommodate those guilty of the same transgression.

The liberty of the subject is a familiar phrase, and any attempt to curtail or interfere with it is bitterly resented. The following enactment, of a comparatively recent date, shows the power wielded by the Church, even in the ordinary affairs of life,—

"The Session being desirous to maintain order in the case of marriage, appoints that none shall be allowed proclamation, till the minister, or in his absence two of the deacons, have given their consent."

In 1699 the proportion of taxation for what was called communication of trade, payable to the town of Selkirk by the town of Galashiels, with the "rest of the unfree traders in the shyre," amounted to the sum of one shilling, to be divided by the said town, with concurrence of Lord Philiphaugh, or his brother, Mr John Murray, advocate.



## CHAPTER IX.

1714 **I**N 1714 a tack of teinds was entered into between Sir James Scott, who is described as "heritable proprietor of the lands and teinds, and others underwritten on the one part, and John Donaldson, present bailie in Galashiels; Alexander Murray, late bailie there; James Haldon, *alias* 'Lord;' Thomas Paterson and George Pearson, merchants, there; John Mabon, *alias* 'Duke,' indweller, there; Andrew Thomson, milnewright, there; George Small, wright; William Frier, weaver; John Paterson, maltster, *alias* 'Townhead;' and James Watson, flesher, there, for themselves, and on behalf of the hail remanent tennents, occupiers and possessors of the arable ground and land of the town of Galashiels on the other part."

It is evident from this document that Sir James Scott assumed that he had a right to the teinds; but in this he was mistaken, for he had only the right of presentation to the Parish Church. However, he let the parsonage teinds for nineteen years, so that the tenants might

"Ingather their haill corn growing thereupon, conform to their respective possessions at whatsoever time they please during the tack."

He also warrantted them against all annuities of teinds and other public burdens.

On the other part, the tenants bound themselves to pay for "ilk twelve soume mailing" the sum of twenty merks Scots, or £1, 2s 2½d sterling. For each "sax soume mailing," ten merks Scots; and for a "three soume mailing," five merks Scots. For each boll of corn sown, "two merks and one half merk," about 2s 9½d sterling; and so forth, proportionally, as they possessed. The tack was signed in presence of William Williamson, dyster, Galashiels; Adam Murray, skinner, there; and George Kirkwood, the writer of the deed. The annuity of

teinds referred to in the tack was payable to the Crown or others who might have acquired the right to it; but it had long ceased to be uplifted, the collections having been stopped by order of Charles II., in 1674.

1722 In a manuscript, dated 1722, Galashiels is described as being

“A market town, having a weekly market on Wednesdays, belonging to Scott of Gala, having a tolbooth in the middle of the town with a clock and bell, also possessing a cross, with a church and burying-ground at the east end.”

1723 In 1723 an extraordinary boating accident occurred in the locality, attended with a considerable loss of life, and is referred to in an old volume of local family history. In this book there is an engraving entitled “The Carrow-weel and The Noirs, two celebrated salmon casts in the Tweed.” The scene is taken from below Galafoot, looking down the river, and a foot-note contains the following statement,—

“The rock in the water of the river in the foreground was the cause of a sad loss of life. The ferry boat, full of people going to Melrose fair, broke from its mooring and was split to pieces upon it. Twenty people were carried down by the current and drowned, ten saving themselves by hanging on to a horse, and this powerful animal landed them in safety.”

In these days bridges were few and far between, and ferry boats were necessarily used, but of a much larger size than anything to be seen on the Tweed at the present day. It would appear that the river was in high flood, and the accident was caused by the breaking of the mooring rope when landing, owing to the strength of the current. It is understood that the boat drifted from the pool called the “Dead Water,” having been brought down from Boldside for the occasion.

This occurrence is referred to in the Session records, of date December 29th, 1723, which state,—

“The Kirk Session of Galashiels having taken into their serious consideration the several tokens of the Lord’s anger evidenced against this place, particularly that late awful dispensation of Holy Providence in the breach that he was pleased to make in several families in the paroch. They pray the

Lord would sanctify the stroke he had made upon the place, and to the persons the more immediately concerned, and that he would give grace to this people to make a due improvement of that dispensation."

The Rev. Henry Davidson, the parish minister, preached the following Sabbath from Psalm xcvi. 2, "Clouds and darkness are round about Him, righteousness and judgment are the habitation of His throne." This sermon was printed, and was entitled "Dark providences to be admired, not curiously inquired into."

One of the survivors of the accident was a Galashiels manufacturer named Williamson, who clung to a fragment of the boat, and was rescued about Bridge-end. He is said to have kept the piece of wood till his death, when, by his request, it was utilised in forming part of his coffin. He was buried in the old churchyard, where his tombstone, bearing the date 1763, was to be seen until recent years. Of the victims of the accident nine belonged to Galashiels, three to Boldside, three to Sunderlandhall, two to Appletreelaves, one to Torwoodlee Mains, one to Whytbank, and one to Caddonlee.

As might have been expected at a period when superstition was only relaxing its hold upon men's minds, the agency of the Evil One was strongly suspected in so tragic a case. An old woman who lived at Westhouses affirmed that she was in his company at the time, and that they sat upon the prow of the boat in the form of two corbies. She further added that the foul fiend treated her that evening, in the old steeple at Selkirk, to the fattest haggis she ever saw. Another of the sisterhood laid the "wyte" on a son of Lord Torphichen, who was at that period credited with being a noted warlock.

1728 In 1728 an appearance occurred, which possibly is the only instance of such a phenomenon in the district, and is thus described in a contemporary journal,—

"Galashiels in Selkirkshire, March 4th. On Thursday last at eight at night there was perceived, in the air towards the north, an extraordinary meteor in the form of an arch, the side pointing to the earth dark and gloomy with the bright side upward, which disappeared about three next morning.

On the 1st instant it was again observed with extraordinary commotion in the air towards the north-east. The vapour was of a pale yellow colour, going in flakes of considerable breadth, with a whizzing sound distinctly heard, and the nearer it approached the zenith, the more it increased. About half an hour after four an earthquake was felt over all the place and some miles around, but it pleased God there was no damage sustained."

Near the close of the eighteenth century Galashiels was but a mere village; besides that of the manse, there existed only one slated roof. There was a small colony of weavers, many of whom were also "bonnet lairds," but they were poor and devoid of enterprise. No highways, in the modern sense of the word, existed, and travellers to Edinburgh were in the habit of using the channel of the Gala for a road when it was sufficiently dry. When the roads were constructed, shortly after the middle of the eighteenth century, Galashiels was even then so insignificant a place that the road from Kelso and Jedburgh to Edinburgh came by way of Melrose, crossing the Tweed at Westhouses by boat, through Lauder, and over Soutra Hill; while that from Hawick went by way of Selkirk, Yair, Clovenfords, Crosslee, and on by Stagehall and Heriot. All the coals that came to Galashiels at that time were carried on the backs of horses, the now disused road on the south side of Gala between Crosslee and Galashiels having only been made in 1764. The first cart wheel in the district was made by Robert Aimers. On a tombstone erected to his memory in the old churchyard was a sculptured representation of an angel, with uplifted axe, keeping watch over a wheel.

Up to the beginning of the present century there existed three old peels in the village, the principal one, said to have been a royal hunting lodge, was termed the "Hunter's Ha'." With the exception of Gala House, it was the best building in the district. It was removed in 1816 to provide room for an addition to the parish school. Unlike the ordinary rude style of masonry in which the village was built, this peel was of immense strength, its walls being almost six feet thick. The doorway and windows were faced with red sandstone, similar to

that of which Dryburgh Abbey is built, and it had an excellent stone stair leading to the second floor. Another peel, of ruder construction, used by the retainers of royalty, stood in the garden now belonging to Dr Murray, adjoining the Parish Church. It was at one time occupied by Henry Watson, skinner, who, in consequence of the scarcity of water, removed to Buckholmside. A third tower, of similar construction, stood at the head of "Cuddy Green," and was latterly occupied by a weaver named Frier, father of Robert Frier, manufacturer.

From the "Hunter's Ha'" a narrow lane led to a locality in the neighbourhood called the "Touting Birk," whence, it is conjectured, the hunters were summoned from the chase. The scene is now changed, the "derke foreste" has disappeared. "Magalt" lifts up its head as of yore, but now, almost to its summit, it is made "blythe with plough and harrow."

The "Hunter's Ha'" was latterly inhabited by Willie Bold, a forester in the service of the Laird of Gala. He was one of those who had witnessed a detachment of the Highland army pass through the village in 1745. At that time the Laird, who adhered to the house of Hanover, caused all the cattle in the barony to be driven to Blakehope Burn for security. In his absence the Highlanders appeared, and Mrs Scott welcomed them by waving her handkerchief and calling out "God save Prince Charlie, long live the Prince." She hospitably entertained them, and they at length departed, highly pleased with their reception.

The following story is related regarding Willie Bold,—When Lieutenant-Colonel Hugh Scott was promoted to the command of a coloured regiment in the West Indies, young Frank Bold accompanied him as valet. In reply to some of the neighbours, who had been enquiring after Frank's welfare, Willie informed them that "There were nae Ethiopians there but the Laird and oor Frank." Old Willie had got slightly mixed, doubtless he meant Europeans. Neither of them returned. Both died of fever, and sleep far from the banks of their native Gala,

Willie Bold's well was about ten yards distant from the east end of the peel, the road which led to it being about four feet wide and fenced on both sides with a high stone wall. The well was circular and about three feet deep, but in order to reach the water, it was necessary to go down two steps. Here the village children of a past generation quenched their thirst, lifting the water with a "tinnie," which was always returned to Willie's house, where it remained till again required.

In the earlier years of the town's history its fairs were important events in the calendar. The first of these was held on Midsummer day, the second on the 29th September, and the third, called Martinmas fair, on the first Tuesday of November, the right to hold which was obtained by Act of Parliament in 1693. Through course of time these dates had been altered, and a fourth fair inaugurated. About sixty years ago the fairs were held on the third Wednesday of March, 8th of July, 10th October, and the third Wednesday of November.

The March fair was attended by a large gathering, and a considerable amount of business was done in seed corn, cattle, linen, and other goods. The Midsummer fair was of a general character, and attracted people from all parts of the south of Scotland. It was regularly proclaimed from the Cross, at that time by Walter Blaikie, the Baron Bailie's man, at twelve o'clock on the day of the fair, in the following terms,—

"Oyez! Oyez! Oyez! Forasmuch as in his majesty's name and authority, given and granted to — Scott of Gala, Esquire, and to — his baron bailie depute, to hold a free fair yearly on this 8th day of July, I hereby prohibit and debar from this fair all false weights and false measures, all cutters of purses, Egyptians and randy beggars, and that none trouble and molest this fair for auld debt or new debt, auld feud or new, and this fair is to continue for the space of eight days. God save the King."

A roll was then beaten on the drum by Tam Tamson, which concluded the ceremony.

The Cross in those days stood upon a circular base ascended by a flight of steps. A kind of balcony projected, from which the proclamations were made. This portion was removed

before the Cross itself was taken down. The shaft of the Cross rested on a pedestal on the top of the circular base, being surmounted by a dial, over which was an iron rod carrying a vane, with the date 1695, and the initials J. S. cut through the plate. The whole erection was removed about 1820, the shaft being deposited at the back of Gala coach house, where it lay till it was again erected by subscription in 1867. It occupies nearly the same position as it did originally, in front of the Baron Bailie's office, once the Cloth Hall. On the other side stood the Tolbooth and the Glassite meeting-house; below was a school kept by old Jeanie Craw, who initiated young Galashiels into the mysteries of the horn book, "Reading made easy," and the plain truths of the Bible. At the same time the female portion of the pupils were taught to sew, knit, and spin. Next door to the school was a well-known alehouse, bearing the sign of the "Ship," kept by a Boniface named Dalgliesh.

The fair held in October appears to have been of a purely local character, owing its origin, in all probability, to the annual observance of the Michaelmas festival and attendant holiday.

The Martinmas fair was principally a mart for black cattle, the fleshers in the village and district assembling and killing a large number of them at the "auld Tolbooth," where the villagers, according to the old custom, were wont to purchase their "mart." This, together with their meal, formed their staple provision for the ensuing winter.

This fair was held on the first Tuesday of November till about 1786, when the day was changed, with the result that the trade was transferred to St Boswells, and the Martinmas fair, in course of time, dwindled into oblivion.

While other institutions have risen and flourished, the once busy markets have degenerated into mere names. Three or four "sweetie krames," a dilapidated shooting gallery, and an Aunt Sally now form the centre of attraction; the erstwhile busy crowd has disappeared, and their places are occupied by a score or two of small boys and girls.

Early in the eighteenth century the fleshers of the village formed themselves into an incorporation, the following being a copy of their seal of cause. It is of interest on account of the light it throws upon the trade practices and powers possessed and exercised by the Lord of the Manor nearly two hundred years ago.

“ At Galasheills the eleventh day of October, seventeen hundred and six years, and of her majesty's reign the fifth year,

The which day anent the petition and supplication given unto Sir James Scott of Gala, heritor and proprietor of the toun and village of Galasheills, be William Elliot, Thomas Watson, James Haldoun, Thomas Scott, Thomas Gill, and William Cairncross—all ffleshers and inhabitants within the said toun of Galasheills; mentioning that, Where it being the ancient and laudable custom of other touns and villages, ffor the weell, utility, and profite of the samen indwellers and inhabitants thereof, and for the better government of incorporations threin, to have Deacons and other office men within the samen created, elected, and chosen. Which being done would not only tend to the promoting and advancing the interests and credit of the said incorporation, but would be ane encouraging mean to them to imploy themselves in furnishing the said toun and village of Galasheills and country thereabout with good and sufficient ffleshers. And therefore craveing that the said Sir James Scott of Gala would give them libertie and licence to elect and choise ane Deacon and quarter-masters within themselves for the management and government of the said incorporation, as the samen petition and supplication in itself purports. Whilk petition and supplication above mentioned being by the said Sir James Scott taken to his serious consideration, with the articles following, given in by the petitioners above mentioned. And being read in his presence and he being therewith weell and ryplie advised. The said Sir James Scott ffand the said petition and supplication relevant and the said articles to be profitable and good, not only for the saide ffleshers' craft, but also for the utility, profite, and advantag of the said toun and village of Galasheills, and our sovereign lady's leidges. And therefor has given and granted, and by the tenor hereof gives and grants to the petitioners above named and their successors of the said trade fful and ffree libertie to meet amongst themselves yearly before their election at Michaelmas and ther to prepare and give in to the said Sir James Scott, his airs and successors, ane leitt of three persons, who shall be ffremen within the same trade. And that they shall make choice of (by voteing) to be their Deacon, that out of the said leitt, the said Sir James may choise ane Deacon with power thereafter to the Deacon swae to be choisen, and the ffremen of the said craft and trade to meet amongst themselves, and choise their quarter-masters and other office-bearers within the said trade, for whom they will be answerable, beginning

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the first election at and against the twelfth day of the eighth month of October, and yearly at Michaelmas thereafter, in all tyme comeing. And has statute and ordained the articles underwritten to be observed and kept by the persons above named, and their successors, as perpetual laws ordinances amongst themselves in all tyme comeing under the pains and penalties after mentioned. And the said Sir James Scott has interponed his authority hereunto and ordains execution to follow hereupon. And for confirmation of this present Act, that the said Sir James his common seall bee hereto appended. Of the whilk articles and priviledges the tenor follows, and it is thus first, it is statut and ordained likeas the said Sir James statuts and ordains that the craftsmen of the said trade and craft have power to make up the leitt of the persons to be Deacon foresaid, the samen being always ffreemen of the said craft, and that besides within the said toun and village of Galasheills, and give it on to the said Sir James for the end above mentioned, with power also to the said Deacon and craftsmen of the said craft to elect and choise their officer-men within the said craft for keeping good order among themselves.

*Item.*—That no man use and occupy the said craft as masterman and ffreeman until the tyme he be admitted ffree with the said craft, and shall pay ten pounds Scots for his upsett under the pain and penaltie of the like soume of ten pounds Scots to be payed by the Deacon of the said trade and craft to the said Sir James or those having his warrant to uplift the samen.

*Item.*—That no ffreeman of the said craft receives an apprentice for less than five years under the pain of their fforfeiting their libertie.

*Item.*—That no masterman of the said craft gives harbour to ane other man's apprentice or servant within the tyme of his apprenticeship or service under the pain of ffourtie shillings Scots, to be paid by the tyster (enticer) and as much be the apprentice and servant tysted to the box for the use of the trade.

*Item.*—That everie ffreeman pay sixteen shillings Scots yearly as weekly pennies proportionatlie at Martinmas and Whitsunday for the use of the poor.

*Item.*—That ilk ffreeman that comes not to the quarter meetings being laullie warned shall pay sixteen shillings Scots.

*Item.*—That no ffreeman or any of his family disobey or deforce the Deacon's officer under the pain of fourteen shillings Scots for the use of the poor.

*Item.*—That no ffreeman of the said craft shall exact of unfree men within the said toun and village the soume of sixteen shillings Scots yearly at Martinmas for the weekly pennies.

*Item.*—That no unfree man break his own beef, bacon, or mutton excepting legs for sale, but that they cause ffreemen doe the samen for payment of every nolt and swyne four shillings Scots, and in case any ffreeman refuse to break the samen for the said soume, in that caice the

Deacon of the said craft shall pay as ane unlaw for himself and the craft the soume of fourteen shillings Scots, the equal half thereof to the said Sir James, and the other to the party damnified, and the Deacon to take the unlaw of the refuser.

*Item.*—That the Deacon and craft and their officers have the concurrence of ane the said Sir James Scott, and his baron officer, to put their acts into execution.

*Item.*—That the distribution of the penalties above and under-written be by the advise of the said Deacon and quarter-masters allnerly (only) for the tyme.

*Item.*—When the Deacon and quarter-masters or remanent brethren of the said craft shall upon any occasion convene together, if any of them shall upbraid or molest ane and other be word or deed, blood or any criminal fact excepted, the offender shall be censured by the Deacon and quarter-master, as effeirs not exceeding five pounds of unlaw to be payed to the box for the use of the poor.

*Item.*—That if any apprentice shall commit the filthie fact of ffornication at any time within the years of his apprenticeship, he shall serve two years after the expiry thereof, without any ffee or bountith, but for meat and drink.

*Item.*—That no craftsman or ffreeman, within the craft, complain upon any other ffreeman, or pursue him in the court before the Baron Bailie or any other judge, the soume being within five pounds Scots, but that he first complain to his Deacon under the pain of fourteen shillings Scots, the one half to their own box, and the other to the said Sir James Scott. But if the complainer get not justice of payment within twenty days, he shall have libertie to pursue before the said Bailie, or any other judge.

*Item.*—The said Sir James Scott gives full power to the Deacon of the said craft, or any in his name, to search the mercatts and ffairs for insufficient meatt in tyme comeing, and to confiscat the samen for the use of the poor, and to punish the faulters, the said Sir James Scott and his officer concurring.

*Item.*—That none have voice at the election of the Deacon, except those who are ffreemen and actuallie resides within the said toun and village, or privlidges thereof.

*Item.*—That no stranger or other person, whatsomever, that serves not his apprenticeship within the said toun, or marries not ane ffreeman's daughter within the trade, shall have any libertie or ffreedom of the said trade, without consent of the haill bretheren thereof.

*Item.*—That the trade shall yearly, in tyme comeing at the election of their Deacon, have libertie to nominat and choise two or three of their own number as comprysers of any goods or others the trade shall have

occasion to compryse in satisfaction of any private debt or fynes within five pounds within themselves.

*Item.*—The said Sir James limits and appoints the mercatt place for killing and selling of meatt, to be where it has been formerly.

*Item.*—That ane ffreeman's relict shall have libertie to keep shop during her widowhood.

*Item.*—That no ffreeman's sone be admitted to the liberties of the said trade, excepting ane ffreeman's eldest sone, unless he serves his apprenticeship.

In Testimonie whereof thir presents, written by William Ancrum, servitor to Andrew Waugh, of Shaw, Toun Clerk of Selkirk; James Mitchelhill, sherrif substitat of the sherrifdom of Selkirk; Mr George Adam, schoolmaster, Galasheills; and the said Andrew Waugh and William Ancrum.

Likeas the said Sir James, his seall is hereto appended."

Then follow the signatures and seal.

## CHAPTER X.

**U**NDER the singular name of "The Penal Statutes" there existed an old practice whereby the inhabitants of the village had to pay one penny of a fine, at the Bailie's Court, for every time they "loupit the Laird's dykes." At Candlemas it was customary for the tenantry to dine with the Laird in one of the inns, and these fines were devoted to the payment of the reckoning. It was also usual to elect annually six "birliemen," as they were termed, to act as a jury in the Bailie's Court. The dignity and social standing of these officials may be estimated from the condition of service, viz., the possession of a "twa-soume mailen," or sufficient land to maintain three sheep. The Birle Court was held at the Cross every Saturday, where all questions relating to property and trespass within the barony were decided.

Several other old and obsolete practices show in a lively manner that the Baron had a very great power within his jurisdiction. In granting feus for building purposes, the following conditions were sometimes attached,—The feuar had to spin one pound of lint, pay one darg, or one hen yearly, or, at the option of the Laird, pay one shilling and eightpence in lieu of the spinning, one shilling for the darg, or day's work, and one shilling for the hen—all sterling money. In addition the feuar was bound to grind all his corn, malt, and wheat at the Galashiels mill, and also buy at the same mill all the meal he required, provided it was as good and cheap as it could be purchased in the Galashiels market.

During the winter, when frost prevailed, the inhabitants were obliged to turn out at the ringing of a bell to "redd the mill dam," or to break the ice so as to prevent it from freezing over. On certain occasions it was customary for the "haill toun"

to assemble in front of the Bailie's door. Headed by that functionary, they adjourned to a suitable field, and indulged in a game of shinty. Those rejoicing in the Christian names of Hab, Jock, Tam, Andrew, Adam, and Dan played against all the others in the village. In time of frost the same procedure was gone through, and the villagers assembled at "the place" to enjoy the sport of curling. At mid-day the minister regaled the players with a dish of brose, which was prepared and sent out from the manse.

In those days superstition was rampant, and the villagers firmly believed in every description of evil spirits. The sepulchral aisle in the old churchyard, belonging to the Gala family, was credited with opening of its own accord for nine nights before the death of a Laird. The following story is told in connection with this building,—It was customary for a party of "drouthy cronies" to meet round the hospitable hearth of one of the village ale-houses, when strange stories were rehearsed concerning the doings of ghosts, boggles, and fairies. On one occasion the usual company was assembled amongst whom was Tam Sanderson, the shoemaker. The old tales were being re-told, when, stimulated perhaps by the generous liquor he had imbibed, he laughed their fears to scorn and declared his readiness to go anywhere in spite of deil, goblin, or ghost. He was at once challenged by the blacksmith to go along to the Auld Kirk and leave an awl sticking in the floor of the Laird's haunted pew, which might testify on the following day that he had fulfilled his mission. This proposal was more than Tam anticipated, and he was somewhat staggered by the suggestion; but, seeing no way out of the difficulty, except by admitting that he was afraid, he screwed his courage to the sticking point, and procuring an awl he started very reluctantly to fulfil his idle boast. The party followed, but on arriving at the churchyard gate they halted to await his re-appearance.

The night was dark, a wintry gale was moaning through the leafless trees on Gala Hill, from which at intervals came the eerie hoot of the midnight owl, when, with quaking heart and

quivering limbs, Tam started on his dreary mission. As he made his way to the kirk door, the old tombstones on either hand appeared, to his heated fancy, as ghostly visitants from another world. The sigh of the wind, as it sighed across the grassy mounds, sounded in his ears like weird whisperings from the lips of unseen witnesses. The door was at length gained, and he began to grope his darksome way towards the haunted pew. The dreaded spot was reached, and, in a state bordering upon frenzy, he stooped down and drove the awl to the haft in one desperate blow. Hurriedly endeavouring to rise, he was firmly held by some invisible power, and, filled with the awful thought that he had fallen into the clutches of the Evil One, his yells resounded through the midnight air, striking terror into the hearts of the company congregated outside the gate. An awful silence followed. The startled comrades, almost frantic between fears for their own safety and the dire danger of their neighbour, hurriedly, and with sinking hearts, made their way to the kirk door. It was no sooner reached than another appalling yell resounded through the building, scattering them right and left. The miller in his agitation clutched wildly at the bell rope, with which he had come in contact as it dangled within his reach, causing the bell to give voice in its loudest tone. The unusual sound aroused the villagers, who soon formed a crowd within the churchyard. A couple of worthies, engaged in "burning" Gala, were attracted by the commotion, and, with blazing "cruzie" and shouldered leister, they hastily made their way up the Kirkcroft Park and along the Bow Butts to the place of attraction. In the blazing light courage returned, and, with the "cruzie" held on high, and the leister projected well to the front, the reckless fishers entered the church with the crowd at their heels. The old walls and roof were lit up with the unwonted glare,—along the passage, on the pews and the pulpit, the shadows fitfully fell, but save the sound of their own footsteps all was silent as the grave; no grim spectre, goblin, or wraith was to be seen. The pew was reached, and the helpless shoemaker was observed, pale

and silent, extended motionless upon the floor. Eager hands were stretched out to raise him, and willing feet ran to summon medical assistance lest haply a spark of life might yet flicker in the unconscious victim. On endeavouring to remove him, they only succeeded after some considerable difficulty, when, lo, amid the unextinguishable laughter of the erstwhile terror-stricken company, it was discovered that in his blind terror he had driven his awl not only into the floor, but also through his stout leather apron, which successfully resisted his frantic efforts to escape. He was carried out and soon recovered. The village gossips got a fresh subject for discussion in which the shoemaker took no part; for the future he stuck to his last, and the village ale-houses knew him no more.

Near the site of the Round Tree Bridge, leading from Bank Street to Gala Park Road, there stood a grand old elm, called the "Round-about Tree." At that time, when the site of Bank Street was called the "Swine Park" or the "Miller's Park," the road to the "Auld Toun" went past it. This road was termed the "Orchard Loan," and was credited with being a resort of fairies. An old residenter, named George Brown, lived in its vicinity. He was an early riser, and at the dawn of a fine summer morning, as he stepped out into the open air, his ears were greeted with strains of sweet music. Shaping his course toward the direction whence the mysterious sounds proceeded, he came in sight of the "Round Tree," where he clearly beheld, in the grey light, scores of hares on their hind legs dancing in a ring round one much larger than the rest. He saw no musician, nor did he stay to investigate. Realising his position, he turned quickly away as he said, "It wasna cannie to let them see me, or disturb them in their frolics." These assemblages were thought to be composed of individuals who possessed the power of transforming themselves into the likeness of hares, and this tradition, regarding the sight seen at the Round Tree, was believed with a sincerity that to doubt or discredit would have been considered an insult to the

narrator of the story. The old tree also served as a trysting place,

“ Whar mony a simmer e'en  
Fond lovers did convene,  
Thae bonny bonny gloamin's that are lang awa'.”

Its name was a familiar word amongst the men and women of a bye-gone generation, but the necessities of modern life possess no sympathy with the memorials of lang syne. Standing in the way of the march of improvement, it was cut down, and an enterprising tradesman converted it into articles of furniture, which now adorn the mansions of those whose forefathers had played under its shade.

Early in the seventeenth century, a noted character lived in the village, who was known as “the whistler.” He was a joiner and undertaker, and was so fond of his own sweet melody that he did not even cease whistling when going home with a coffin. This indecorous behaviour had been tolerated by the villagers for a considerable time, till at length, in order to put a stop to it, they “daured” him to whistle across the Bakehouse burn, and past the Round-about Tree at midnight. Nothing daunted, he set forth with a light heart, whistling as usual, but on reaching the tree his melody suddenly ceased; something “no' canny” appeared to him, and from that night he was never heard to whistle again.

The sylvan banks of the Linn, or Lint, Burn was another spot favoured by the “good people.” On moonlight nights the shrill sound of fairy music was sometimes heard, and many could be found to testify that the fairies had been seen dancing in their charmed rings.

Even the “minister's man” was a devout believer in fairies. Coming home from Boldside one night, he was startled by a strange mysterious whispering at his ear. He was so impressed with the idea that something “uncanny” was accompanying him that he dared not turn his head, but took to his heels and ran



all the way home, where, panting and breathless, he discovered that the supposed sprite was only the rustling of a straw sticking to his hat.

While there is no record of Galashiels having possessed a genuine witch, it was at one time customary to attribute something "uncanny" to those who had a little more common-sense than their neighbours. One of these old females having died, the day of her funeral happened to be very stormy. It was affirmed by those who carried the coffin that sometimes its weight was such that they could scarcely carry it, while at other times it became so light they could hardly keep it from flying off. One of the villagers, who was busily employed in endeavouring to save the "theekin'" of his house from being carried away by the violence of the wind, had a little boy who came out to see the funeral pass, and such was the strength of the gale that he was lifted bodily off his feet and carried some distance. After securing his son's safety, the father was heard denouncing the silent occupant of the coffin as "an auld witch, no' content wi' blawin the 'theekin'" off the hoose, but had also to blaw away the bit callant."

Up to the end of the eighteenth century, it was the habit of the villagers to assemble at the Cross before sunrise on the first day of May, O.S., and proceed to the nearest place in the neighbourhood from which a view could be obtained of the summit of Williamlaw Hill, known of old as "Baal's," or "Bel's Cairn." From their position they watched the lighting of the Beltane fire on the hill top, where, as was customary in many other localities in Scotland, the old Pagan rite was still observed. The simple, superstitious villagers were under the belief that the fire was lighted by Bel, the sun god.

More recently the morning in question was observed by the youths and maidens of the town, who proceeded to the fields before sunrise, and washed their faces with dew. To this practice some ascribed a happy influence for the ensuing twelve

months, while others considered that it secured some sort of medical virtue. The custom is thus described by Ferguson,—

“ On May day in a fairy ring  
We’ve seen them round St Anthon’s spring,  
Frae grass the caller dew-draps wring  
          To wat their een.  
And water clear as crystal spring,  
          To synd them clean.”

## CHAPTER XI.

1771 **I**N 1771 the village commenced to extend, and in the following twenty years there were erected on the haugh-land bordering Gala thirty-two houses in the parish of Galashiels, and thirty-nine in the parish of Melrose. This exodus from the parish of Galashiels was caused by the ground in Melrose parish being better adapted for the erection of factories for the manufacture of cloth.

In addition to those engaged in the staple trade, there were ten persons employed as skimmers and tanners, who paid a duty of from £66 to £98 annually upon the amount of leather produced. There were also seventeen persons who wrought in wood, as cabinetmakers, carpenters, wheel and mill wrights. A considerable trade was also done by purchasing timber, and blocking it out into ploughs, carts, rakes, etc., which were sold to farmers and plough and cart wrights in various parts of the country. There were three blacksmiths, three bakers, five shoemakers, and nine tailors. The number of merchants, or shopkeepers, could hardly be stated, as nearly every person bought, sold, and bartered. There were fifteen licenced houses in the village, yet the people were sober and industrious in the extreme. Few were addicted to tippling, and it was very rare to observe a tradesman under the influence of liquor. In regard to church attendance, the number of communicants belonging to the Established Church was two hundred; while there were also adherents professing the Burgher and Anti-Burgher principles, and a few belonging to the Relief Church. There were also some Glassites and Baptists, besides several who disclaimed attachment to any sect whatever. In connection with the dissent that had arisen in the village, Dr Douglas stated that he had made no inquiry regarding the different tenets held, or the exact number of those adhering to them, from an opinion, that, "while they are





peaceable members of society, and live soberly, righteously, and godly, the speculative points on which they may differ are of very little importance."

The following list contains the names of the feuars who 1796 held land within the barony in 1796, together with the rental of fields and feus for houses, as well as that for houses and yards,—

	<i>Fields and House.</i>			<i>House and Yard.</i>		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
The Corn Mill, Thos. Cleghorn,	...	...	...	50	10	0
Swine Park, Do. do.	2	6	0			
Stoney Quarter, Rev. R. Douglas,	24	1	4			
House and yard, his man-						
servant, ...	...	...	...	12	0	2 10
House and yard, Robert Amers,	...	...	...	9	3	3 9
Leeland, Catbog and House,						
Aitchson & Aimers, ...	12	0	0	2	12	0
House and yard, Tibie Amers,	...	...	...	8	6	2 10
Do. do. Simon Aitchson,	...	...	...	18	0	5 8
Do. do. Janet Aitken,	...	...	...	10	0	2 10
Do. do. J. Aitchson, Jr.,	...	...	...	1	10	0 5 8
Crooveyards and houses,						
Blackie & Paterson, ...	3	0	0	2	0	8
House and yard, David Ballantyné,	...	...	...	10	0	2 10
Do. do. Widow Ballantyne,	...	...	...	8	6	2 10
Do. do. J. Brown, weaver,	...	...	...	1	12	0 7 8
Do. do. George Blackie,	...	...	...	15	0	3 10
Do. do. George Brown,	...	...	...	14	0	3 10
Do. do. Brotherston &						
Sanderson, ...	...	...	...	1	1	0 5 8
Do. do. James Blaikie,	...	...	...	16	0	4 8
Do. do. James Brown,	...	...	...	1	10	0 8 6
Do. do. James Blackie,	...	...	...	16	0	4 8
Do. do. William Berry,	...	...	...	1	5	0 10 8
A house, James Brown, merchant,	...	...	...	7	0	
House and yard, William Bold,	...	...	...	18	0	4 10
Do. do. Wm. Brown, Jr.,	...	...	...	1	5	0 6 8
Do. do. Betty Bullar, ...	...	...	...	7	0	2 0
Do. do. Thos. Clapperton,	...	...	...	1	1	0 5 8
Do. do. Widow Clapperton,	...	...	...	6	2	2 6
House, Widow Craig,	...	...	...	6	8	
Farnyknow and Houses, James						
Craig, ...	26	0	10	3	0	8

	<i>Fields and House.</i>			<i>House and Yard.</i>		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
2 houses and yards, G. Clapperton,	...	...	...	15	10	7 8
House and yard, And. Clapperton,	...	...	...	4	10	3 8
Caldside, Crooveyards, etc.,						
John Clapperton,	2	1	6	1	9	0
House and yard, William Craig,	...	...	...	10	0	5 8
Do. do. Geo. Chisholm,	...	...	...	1	10	0 5 8
Do. do. Wm. Chisholm,	...	...	...	5	0	1 0
Do. do. Adam Cochran,	...	...	...	2	3	0 1 0 0
House, James Crow,	...	...	...	7	6	
Caldside, with houses and yard,						
William Dobson,	3	0	0	1	6	4
House and yard, John Dobson,	...	...	...	1	5	0 5 8
Do. do. Widow and						
Simon Dobson,	...	...	...	14	0	5 10
House and yard, John Dobson,						
weaver,	...	...	...	1	4	0 6 8
2 houses and 2 yards, J. Dalglish,	...	...	...	3	3	0 15 8
House and yard, Janet Dobson,	...	...	...	5	0	2 0
Do. do. Widow Donaldson,	...	...	...	8	0	2 0
Do. do. Robert Frier,	...	...	...	1	6	0 5 8
Do. do. John and Robert						
Frier,	...	...	...	1	10	0 12 8
2 houses, John Fairgrieve, wright,	...	...	...	8	0	5 8
House, John Fairgrieve, pigman,	...	...	...	6	0	
House and yard, Wm. Fairbairn,	...	...	...	14	0	4 8
Wanlessmouth, with houses and						
yards, Henry Gill,	5	0	0	3	10	0
House and yard, Andrew Gray,	...	...	...	1	0	0 5 8
Do. do. David Grieve,	...	...	...	1	4	0 6 8
House, John Graham,	...	...	...	7	6	
House and yard, Robert Gill,	...	...	...	7	0	2 10
Do. do. William Gill,	...	...	...	1	4	0 6 8
Do. do. Mary Hunter,	...	...	...	10	0	2 10
Do. do. William Hislop,	...	...	...	1	5	0 10 8
Do. do. James Hislop,	...	...	...	1	0	0 5 8
Do. do. Robert Hatlie,	...	...	...	17	0	5 8
Broomiebrae, with houses and						
yards, James Haig,	2	10	0	2	0	0
House and yard, Haig & Clapperton,	...	...	...	10	0	2 10
Dye house and yard, A. Henderson,	...	...	...	7	0	3 0
House and yard, Thomas Haldane,	...	...	...	12	0	2 10
Do. do. Robert Inglis,	...	...	...	1	0	0 6 8

	<i>Fields and House.</i>			<i>House and Yard.</i>		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
House and yard, James Inglis,	...	...	...	1	1	0
Do. do. Widow and Alex.	...	...	...	5	8	...
Kyles, ...	...	...	...	1	5	0
House and yard, John Lees, ...	...	...	...	1	0	0
Do. do. John Leitch, ...	...	...	...	1	1	0
Do. do. William Lauder, ...	...	...	...	12	0	...
Do. do. Thomas Laidlaw, ...	...	...	...	14	0	...
Nether Waulkmill, Henderson,	...	...	...	...	...	...
Young, and Thomson,	2	0	0	...	...	...
Mid Waulkmill, Grieve, Cochran,	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lees, and Gill, ...	2	10	0	...	...	...
Upper Waulkmill, Robert & Sanderson,	...	...	...	2	0	0
Wilderhaugh Burn Mill, George Mercer, ...	1	0	0	...	...	...
House and yard, William McIntosh, ...	...	...	...	12	0	2 10
Do. do. Francis Messer, ...	...	...	...	1	0	0
Do. do. William Oliver, ...	...	...	...	1	1	0
Thickland, Thomas Paterson,	23	0	0	2	4	4
Wanlessmouth, Robert Paterson,	2	9	6	...	...	...
Houses and yards, Do. do.	...	...	...	1	10	0
Rouentree Butts, houses and yards,	...	...	...	11	2	...
George Paterson, wauker,	4	5	0	1	4	2
Big Stoney Quarter, Adam Paterson, mason, ...	2	7	4	...	...	...
2 houses and 2 yards, Adam Paterson, mason ...	...	...	...	4	0	1 0
House and yard, G. Paterson, mole-catcher, ...	...	...	...	1	0	9 10
Tannage, Adam Paterson, tanner, ...	...	...	...	7	0	...
Weirhaugh, barn and yard, Adam Paterson, tanner, ...	15	7	4	10	0	...
House and yard, Adam Paterson, tanner, ...	...	...	...	1	0	9 10
House and yard, Widow Pacoke, ...	...	...	...	7	6	2 10
Do. do. Thomas Pringle, ...	...	...	...	7	6	3 8
Do. do. John Robert, ...	...	...	...	1	10	0
Poatloans, with houses and yards,	...	...	...	10	10	...
George Richardson, ...	13	3	6	1	9	2
2 houses, George Richardson, ...	...	...	...	1	1	8
Upper Bogs, Do. do.	7	13	8	...	...	...



	<i>Fields and House.</i>			<i>House and Yard.</i>		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Netherhaugh, croft and houses, George Rae, ... ..	6	0	0	1	11	10
House and yard, George Rae, ...	...	...	...	11	0	3
Midbars, with houses and yards, Hugh Sanderson, merchant,	3	5	0	1	9	8
House and yard, John Small, ...	...	...	...	1	1	0
Do. do. Thos. Sanderson, shoemaker, ... ..	...	...	...	1	0	0
House and yard, Alex. Small, ...	...	...	...	1	0	0
Do. do. Widow Sanderson,	...	...	...	12	0	5
Do. do. Hugh Sanderson, couper, ... ..	...	...	...	18	0	6
House, John and Wm. Sanderson,	...	...	...	1	5	8
House and yard, Thomas Speiden,	...	...	...	1	0	0
House, yard, and tenter stance, Hugh Sanderson, dyer, ...	...	...	...	8	4	5
House and yard, Margt. Stodart,	...	...	...	8	0	2
Do. do. James Stodart,	...	...	...	11	0	3
Do. do. J. Sanderson, dyer,	...	...	...	1	0	0
Do. do. Eliz. Sanderson,	...	...	...	1	0	0
Do. do. John Simpson,	...	...	...	8	0	2
Rountree Butts, with house and yard, William Thomson, ...	6	10	0	1	6	4
House and yard, James Thomson,	...	...	...	1	8	0
House, James Thorburn, ...	...	...	...	9	3	...
A yard, Thorburn & Fairbairn,	...	...	...	...	...	5
House and yard, Andrew Thomson,	...	...	...	18	0	8
Do. do. George Tacket,	...	...	...	1	1	0
Do. do. Walter Tait,	...	...	...	6	10	5
Do. do. John Tait, ...	...	...	...	8	0	2
Mabonsbarr, with house and yard, William Walker, ... ..	4	0	0	1	12	8
House and yard, Robert Walker, taylor, ... ..	...	...	...	1	0	0
House and yard, Thomas Walker,	...	...	...	1	4	0
Do. do. Jas. Walker, taylor,	...	...	...	18	8	3
Do. do. Widow Williamson,	...	...	...	1	4	0
Do. do. Alex. Wilson,	...	...	...	10	0	4
Do. do. Thomas Wilson,	...	...	...	16	0	4
Do. do. Thomas White,	...	...	...	4	0	2
Do. do. Robert Young,	...	...	...	12	0	5
Ground at the Tannage, A. Young,	...	...	...	...	...	11

	<i>Fields and House.</i>			<i>House and Yard.</i>		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Bylands, with houses and yards, William Young, carrier, ...	14	0	0	3	2	4
House and yard, William Young, shoemaker, ...					10	0
Clothiers' Hall, Sundry Woollen Manufacturers, ...					10	6
A dye house, Deacon of the weavers, ...						2 0

The first record of a society formed for the purpose of affording assistance to its members in times of distress occurs 1802 in 1802, designated "The Galashiels Friendly Society," and its official record furnishes some interesting information regarding the early condition of the town. The institution was inaugurated under the patronage of the leading men, and its object was "to relieve members who might fall into temporary distress, with a reasonable prospect of being again able, through the blessing of God, to work for their bread." Distress included want of work as well as disease, and, as the original maximum of relief was three shillings per week, the ideas and manner of life at that period must have been of a much humbler character than those common to the present generation.

The office-bearers were elected by ballot, their services being entirely gratuitous. The rules excluded every person labouring under hereditary disease, and, when an honorary member was admitted, they levied an entry money amounting to ten shillings, and "as much more as the new member chose to contribute." Every member had to sign the rules. The earlier portion of the list is an interesting memorial of the time.

The first name is Robert Douglas, minister, Galashiels, the father, financier, and friend of his parishioners. At that date he was fifty-five years of age. The second name is one equally well-known, George Craig, writer, Galashiels, aged twenty; and the third is George Paterson, clothier, aged twenty-two.

In the minutes, Galashiels is called "the village," and Langhaugh, Darling's Haugh, the Shingle, the Cauldback, Buckholmside, and Hemphaugh are appended to signatures; these places at that time not being included in Galashiels proper.

When the society started, the number of members was fifty-four, which included all the men of light and leading in the village, besides farmers in the district. In 1806 it was ordained that any person would be excluded from participating in the benefit,

“If the distress or accident had been the result of intoxication, a quarrelsome temper, being habitually addicted to swearing, or profaning the Lord's day, as these practices were generally found to pave the way for all the vices by which men are reduced to stand in need of public aid.”

The society lent its money on bills to clothiers, merchants, and others, at five per cent. interest. Besides the borrower, these bills were sometimes endorsed by other four or five names, and ran occasionally for five or six years. The clerk at times had to notify to the borrower that the back of the bill was so covered with writing that it was necessary to renew the paper. Threats of legal action had often to be resorted to before a bill was retired, this duty being undertaken by William Haldane, clothier, whose services were remunerated with the munificent salary of half a guinea per annum, and who only received this sum because the society could not find any one willing to undertake the duties for nothing.

The greatest number of members ever connected with the society amounted to 270, but in 1832 they had fallen to 200. The quarterly payment was one shilling, and the entry money varied from six shillings to twenty shillings, according to the age of the member, none being admitted under sixteen or over forty years of age. The relief afforded latterly amounted to five shillings per week for occasional, and two shillings per week for permanent, supply.

In 1848 the number of members had dwindled to fifty, when the society was dissolved by mutual consent, the funds affording an equal dividend of £4, 13s.

1803      In 1803 the poet Wordsworth and his sister made a tour through Scotland, and Miss Wordsworth thus describes the appearance of the village at that period,—

“Went through a part of the village of Galashiels, pleasantly situated on the bank of the stream. A pretty place it once has been, but a manufactory is established there, and a townish bustle and ugly stone houses are fast taking the place of the brown-roofed thatched cottages, of which a great number yet remain, partly over-shadowed by trees.”

In those days the villagers were very fond of theatrical performances, and, there being no suitable place for such purposes, they were under the necessity of occupying an unfinished flat above a stable belonging to James Haig, the Kelso carrier. This temple of Thespis stood near the parish school, and the children called it “Jamie Haig’s hay loft.” Access was obtained by means of a wooden trap stair, situated at the rear of the building. Here the stage was fitted up, the two front seats being styled the pit, admission one shilling; while the remainder of the seats was termed the gallery, to which the modest sum of sixpence secured an entrance. There, as opportunity offered, all the *élite* of the village and surrounding district were wont to assemble when a visit was paid by some strolling company of actors. On one occasion Mr George Craig was present, and amongst the occupants of the pit was a neighbouring farmer’s wife. In the interval between the acts, Mr Craig asked her whether she preferred tragedy or comedy. With the utmost seriousness she replied “I prefer comedy, for I think we have plenty of tragedy at home.” This reply Mr Craig communicated to some of his neighbours, which provoked a burst of merriment. Feeling indignant at this, the female observed to a friend, in a tone loud enough to be heard by a considerable portion of the audience, who had been indulging in mirth at her expense, “Does that lang dulse and tangle Lieutenant Craig think to make a fool of me and my tragedy?” Mr Craig was tall and extremely thin, and the repartee proved too much for the audience; the laughter at Mr Craig’s expense was general, till the rising of the curtain again attracted their attention to the stage.

## CHAPTER XII.

**F**OR some years the ambition of Napoleon Bonaparte had appeared to aim at universal dominion. Regarding Britain as the chief obstacle to his despotic sway, he directed all his energies toward preparations for an invasion of this country. He gathered together an immense army with the requisite means of transportation, and only waited a favourable opportunity to make a descent upon these shores.

In such circumstances, the call to arms had resounded through the length and breadth of the land. Statesmen, poets, ministers of the Gospel,—all vied with each other in fanning the glow of patriotism which had taken possession of the people. Cities, towns, and obscure country villages alike had been training their sons to resist foreign aggression by force of arms. The modern facilities for the transmission of news were then unknown, but means were adopted to ensure a general rising when the moment for action arrived. Along the coast and upon the more prominent hill-tops sentinels were posted, who, by means of the beacon flare by night or the signal gun by day, could give speedy warning of the approach of the enemy.

It was an anxious time, and at length the crisis arrived.  
1804 On the night of the 31st January, 1804, the ruddy glow of the beacons lit up the midnight sky, as they flashed from hill-top to hill-top, giving warning with tongues of fire of the approach of the dreaded foe,—

“ Then there was mounting in hot haste.”

From every town and village, from bleak hill-side and lonely glen along the eastern side of the Borders, poured forth the hardy volunteers pressing onward to their appointed gathering-place. There were no laggards then. In the case of men absent on business, their wives and mothers sent their arms

and accoutrements to the rendezvous, lest theirs should be the last to join the ranks to repel the hated invader.

Among the numerous local companies that had been enrolled all over the country the village of Galashiels was not behind, and the little band under Lieutenant Craig had been holding themselves in readiness to march at the appointed signal. Night after night anxious eyes scanned the horizon till at length a glare on the top of the Eildons gave warning far and wide that the enemy had been sighted. The clang of the alarm bell on the old Tolbooth soon broke on the startled ear of night, and the shrill fife and spirit-stirring drum sounded the call to arms, which was at once obeyed.

The volunteers fell in at the Cross, where, as an eyewitness has left on record, by the light of a blazing fire,

“Women were to be seen helping their men wi’ their accoutrements, some rinnin’ wi’ ae thing an’ some wi’ anither, sabbin’ an’ greetin’ a’ the time, while the bairns were haudin’ by their gown tails cryin’ for their faithers no’ to leave them.”

At length the command to march was given, and from amid the weeping crowd of wives, sweethearts, and children, the men stepped off into the darkness of the early winter morning.

On reaching Middleton Inn, where a halt was made for rest and refreshment, they heard rumours that the alarm was false, and, on their arrival at Dalkeith, after a march of twenty-eight miles, the report was confirmed. After resting a few hours, their faces were turned homeward, and the following night they reached Galashiels. The news having preceded them, they were welcomed home amid general rejoicing, the village being illuminated in honour of the occasion.

Some nameless local rhymmer commemorated this episode in a series of verses, entitled “The Volunteers of Galashiels,” which conclude thus,—

“ But when they came unto Dalkeith their journey proved in vain,  
And by their captain's orders they were marched back again;  
They were all marched home again, and in a sweet surprise,  
They were kindly welcomed back by their sweethearts and their wives.”

Various reasons have been given for the occurrence; some have promulgated the idea that the authorities were desirous of testing the patriotism of the volunteers, while others, with perhaps more reason, attributed it to a sentinel having mistaken an accidental fire for a lighted beacon.

In connection with this event in the history of the town, a little incident occurred. When the preparations for the march were completed, it was found that “Susie Ha’,” the sergeant's wife, had taken up her position on one of the baggage carts. Lieutenant Craig remonstrated, but in vain; she firmly declined to budge, telling him that it would not be the first time that she had faced the French. Her husband, William Hall, had served against the French in the Irish rebellion, a few years previously, and “Susie,” then a girl of sixteen, attracted by a red coat, left her home and kindred to follow the drum. When the rebellion was suppressed her husband obtained his discharge from the army, and, accompanied by his young wife, returned to his native village, and settled down to his former occupation as a weaver. When the volunteers were enrolled he again offered his services, and being fully qualified by his previous training, was appointed sergeant-instructor to the local company.

The uniform worn by the volunteers at that time consisted of a scarlet coat and white trousers, the cloth for the coats being made by Richard Lees, and the trousering by his brother John.

The following was the muster roll of the company,—

“Lieutenant Craig, George Gray, Andrew Haig, John Lindsay, Sergeant William Hall, George Aimers, John Graham, John Sanderson, George Mirtle, Thomas Fairgrieve, John Forsyth, Robert Walker, Thomas Thomson, George Rae, David Thomson, William Gladstone, Adam Paterson, senr., J. Cairns, James Stirling, Robert Howden, Adam Paterson, junr., Alex. Kyle, James Piper, Thomas Mair, John Young, James Leithead, John Leithead, John

Aimers, William Watson, William Swanston, John Bradely, Far. M'Donald, Robert Gill, George Roberts, George Fairgrieve, Geo. Paterson, William Gill, Jas. M'Kinley, Geo. Dobson, James Bathgate."

A few of these names may now be sought for in vain, but the majority are still borne by the descendants of those men who, in the hour of danger, nobly testified their willingness to lay down their lives in defence of their hearths and homes, or

"Stand a wall of fire around their much-loved isle."



### CHAPTER XIII.

**I**N 1804, a firm consisting of Dr Douglas, George Craig, George Lothian of Kirklands, George Bruce, Langlee; and a retired Leith merchant, named Jamieson, who at that time occupied Gala House, erected a brewery on an extensive scale at Low Buckholmside, with the view of meeting the local demand for London porter, and at the same time providing work for a number of the villagers. In reference to the scheme, Mr Andrew Scott, the Bowden poet, thus expresses his good wishes,—

“Success I wish that noble plan,  
Maturing from its embryo state;  
In which a brewery we scan,  
By Gala’s stream to take its seat.  
  
May peace with plenty still compete,  
Nor want nor dearth trip up our heels;  
Then quaffing many a bumper yet,  
We’ll drink success to Galashiels.”

Every means was adopted to render the undertaking a success, and the services of an experienced London brewer were secured. However, he turned out to be both foolish and extravagant, so that the manufacture of “London porter” at Buckholmside proved a non-paying concern. While losing their money, the proprietors were at the same time losing faith in the speculation, and, finally, in 1809, they gave up the trade and sold the premises to Messrs Sanderson & Paterson, builders, who utilised them for the production of work of a better and more enduring character, of which, among other examples, the Parish Church and the original portion of Abbotsford remain to testify.

In the early days of the town the bed of the Gala was much higher than it is now, and floods proved rather troublesome.  
1806 In 1806 it is recorded in the *Kelso Mail* that

"The bridge over the Gala, rendered impassable by the severe storm in September last, is now in a situation that carriages of any description may pass over it with perfect safety."

This bridge was the original Ladhope bridge. It was erected about 1764, and occupied a site a little further down the stream than the present one. Two years later it is stated in the same publication that

"The late heavy rains have been attended with very fatal effects in the vicinity of Galashiels. They caused torrents of water to descend from the surrounding mountains, which increased the Gala to such a degree as not only to sweep away Gala Bridge, but completely to destroy the public post road, in consequence of which the mode of communication in that part of the country is completely obstructed.

We are sorry also to add that an extensive machinery for the manufacture of woollen cloth was entirely carried away by the torrent, which has thrown a number of industrious people out of employment."

If this report was not intended as a hoax, the writer of the story must have been gifted with a remarkably fertile imagination, such as could scarcely have been expected to exist in those primitive days. In modern times "our own reporter" sometimes affords reason for wonder and amazement, but the following correction, which appeared in a subsequent issue, showed that the reporter of a century ago could, so far as imagination was concerned, compare favourably with his brethren in the craft at the present day,—

"We are glad to learn from the following extract of a letter from Galashiels that the damage sustained from the late storm is not so extensive as we were led to believe. The bridge over Gala was not swept away, it only received some slight damage which will be repaired this week. A small part of the turnpike road was destroyed but is again repaired. None of the machinery houses were carried away, though the mill lead was choked with sand and gravel. A few manufacturers were thrown idle for a few days at most, and the bridge and road are in as good a state as they were before."

1812 In 1812 a spirit of lawlessness and insubordination was prevalent in some parts of the country, and is thus referred to by Mr Walter Scott, sheriff of the county, in a letter to a friend,—

"The infection has even reached the little thriving community of Galashiels, a flourishing village in my district. I was not long, however, in breaking up these associations and securing the papers. The principal rogue escaped me; in hearing that I was suddenly come into the place he observed, 'It's no' for nought the hawk whistles,' and so took to the hills and escaped."

1813      The following incident occurred in 1813 in connection with the Sheriff. A lad, named George Kemp, had completed his apprenticeship as a joiner in a village in Peeblesshire, and having secured a situation in Galashiels set out for that place, carrying his tools on his shoulder. On reaching the old tower of Elibank, a carriage drove up, which was stopped at the request of a gentleman, who was the sole occupant. He inquired at the young lad how far he was going, and, on being told, he invited him to take his seat beside the driver, which he did gladly. On arriving at Galashiels he was set down, and learned from some of the bystanders that he had been riding beside the "Shirra." The young man wrought for some time in the town, spending his scanty leisure hours in visiting Melrose and Dryburgh Abbeys, and studying the architecture of these noble ruins. There he obtained the knowledge that enabled him in after-life to design that "poem in stone" which proudly rears its head in the Scottish capital, commemorating the memory of the kind-hearted "Shirra," Sir Walter Scott.

1814      In 1814 the young Laird, John Scott of Gala, attained his majority, the event being thus described,—

"The village of Galashiels is at this time in a state of great animation, the woollen manufacture being uncommonly brisk, and a most rapid advancement has been made of late both in the quantity and quality of the goods. They meet a steady market and thereby ensure constant employment to old and young, who with smiling faces hail the long-wished-for return of peace and prosperity.

To add to their joy the mansion-house is again lighted up by the heir of the illustrious house of Gala, who by the premature death of his brave father, Colonel Hugh Scott, in the service of his country, was left a minor, and in August last succeeded to his estate. On this joyful occasion a sumptuous dinner was given on the lawn in front of the house, to upwards of five hundred heads of families, his tenants, feuars, and others.

During Mr Scott's short residence in the place he has set about a number of improvements. The village is now embellished with an elegant, new, comfortable and commodious parish church, and the foundation is laid at his own expense for a new bridge over the Gala in place of the old one, which has continued too long the terror of every passenger, and a disgrace to this line of road. These are but a few of the improvements projected and now carrying on, and, the village being exclusively Mr Scott's, his measures will tend in an eminent degree to promote the prosperity of the place."

1815 In 1815 the famous game of handball at Carterhaugh was played. The idea was mooted at a dinner party at Bowhill, and, as originally arranged, the match was to take place between the Souters of Selkirk and the shepherds and others in Ettrick and Yarrow.

Previous to the meeting, the most intense excitement prevailed, and soon the original scheme regarding the contending parties was considerably widened. From the neighbouring vales of the Tweed and Teviot numerous bands of men, adorned with sprigs of heather, the distinctive badge of the shepherds, were to be seen wending their way to Carterhaugh to take part in the contest. On the other side, about one hundred men from Hawick, besides contingents from Melrose and Galashiels turned out to the help of the Souters, who sported a fir twig in their bonnets as their emblem.

It was a stirring sight when the multitude had assembled, the Duke of Buccleuch, the Earl of Home, and other county magnates being prominent. In their midst, and taking a deep interest in the proceedings, were three men whose names will live when men of merely high degree are forgotten. These were Walter Scott, James Hogg, and Henry Scott Riddell, a galaxy of poets which no other district of similar extent in Scotland could rival.

When the arrangements were completed the ball was thrown up, and each side strove with might and main to carry it to their respective goals, which were denoted by two flags about a mile separate. The first game lasted but a short time. The shepherds struggled hard for victory, but, although they were strong, stalwart men, they proved no match for their lighter and more

agile opponents. After refreshments had been served, the second game was commenced, but on this occasion the relative strength of the parties had been changed. The men from Galashiels now assumed the heather, and took their place among the shepherds. Thus reinforced, they gained the second game, but under the changed conditions the Souters declined to continue the contest. However, they offered to play a final game with one hundred picked men on either side, but this offer produced no definite result. The short December day was now far advanced, and the combatants prepared to leave the field where a friendly match at handball had been converted into a cause of more strife and bitter enmity than anything that had occurred on the Borders for generations.

The cause of the defection of the Galashiels men has never been correctly known, but it was the general belief that it was owing to the personal influence of Mr Walter Scott and Mr Pringle of Torwoodlee, who were both highly popular on account of the interest they took in the welfare of the village.

In the evening, when Mr Scott was leaving Selkirk, his carriage was stopped in the Market Place by an angry crowd. His danger was great, but, with admirable tact, he paid no heed to the threatening language, but spoke to those nearest him in complimentary terms regarding the skill and dexterity they had displayed in the contest, finishing up by handing them a couple of guineas for refreshment. He was permitted to depart unharmed, though the deed he was charged with rankled for years in the hearts of the Souters, descending even to their children, and was the cause of many a stout battle between the inhabitants of Galashiels and Selkirk.

1816 In 1816 the famous wire bridge was erected over the Gala, where the Skinworks now stand, and was thus referred to, at the date of its erection, in the *Kelso Mail*,—

“A wire bridge for foot passengers after the model of those constructed in America has just been erected across the Gala at Galashiels, and is found to answer the purpose exceedingly well and to every appearance may last for a number of years at little or no expense.

The span, which is 111 feet, and the breadth 3 feet, makes it very neat and light in appearance, though with safety 20 or 30 people may be upon it at one time. The whole expense of the little bridge is only £20 (?) The public is very much indebted to the well-known spirit of Mr Lees for this useful introduction into the neighbourhood, to Messrs Bathgate, mill-wrights, and to Messrs Thomas Mercer and Joshua Wood in assisting in its construction, and it being so far as we know the first of the kind in the kingdom, they deserve the thanks of the public at large "

In an article upon suspension bridges, which appeared in *Chambers' Journal* in 1839, this bridge is referred to in these terms,—

"The second suspension bridge finished in Britain was one over the river Gala, close by the town of Galashiels. The person who had the merit of projecting this bridge, the first ever constructed in Scotland, was Mr Richard Lees, an extensive woollen cloth manufacturer, whose works were situated on both sides of the Gala, and who therefore conceived the idea of making a convenient communication between the different parts of his works. At an expense of £40 (?) he got a bridge formed in 1816, of slender iron wires, and one hundred and eleven feet in length. It was commonly and properly called a wire bridge, and was the first structure of that kind ever seen in Britain. Though very slight, as may be guessed from its petty cost, it has endured well the action of time, and is still passable and useful. It shakes or oscillates very considerably, but yet not so much as to be alarming, or even disagreeable."

This bridge is also referred to in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*. It served the purpose for which it was erected till 1839, when it was destroyed by a flood.

Shortly afterwards, another bridge on the suspension principle was erected a little farther down the stream, which also was swept away, in 1846. An amusing incident occurred in connection with this bridge. On one occasion a party of fishers were leistering salmon by torch light, and a number of villagers were congregated upon the bridge in order to witness the sport. At length the fishers passed under the bridge, when its occupants changed their position to the other side, and, the chain at that side proving too weak, it broke, and the spectators were capsized into the water. Not much damage was done. One old female,

named Bet Watson, who had been enjoying her smoke, was heard informing some sympathizers that "she didna care a bawbee for the tummel, if she hadna broken her 'cuttie.' "

For some time after this bridge was carried away, the only means of communication between Buckholmside and Wilderhaugh was by stepping stones, or, when the water was flooded, by going round by the "Stane Brig." Owing to the time for meals at that period extending only to three-quarters of an hour, this was found to be very inconvenient. Chiefly through the exertions of a weaver in Galabank Mill, named Thomas Hislop, a plank was acquired, which, in ordinary cases, served for crossing the stream. Through the course of time, however, this developed into a foot bridge, which, under the familiar name of "Tam Hislop's Brig," did duty till the present iron structure, called Hunter's Bridge, was erected in 1879 farther down the stream.

While reference has already been made to a doctor having belonged to the town, it would appear that the profession had not been continuously represented.

In 1816 a petition was submitted to the heritors by Elizabeth Mercer, midwife, stating that she had attended in her professional capacity, a number of poor people in the parish, from whom she had received no payment for her services, and, in consequence of a surgeon having settled in the place, her business had entirely left her. In the circumstances, the heritors, without admitting any legal claim, gave her a donation of two guineas. This surgeon was probably Mr Traquair, who practised in the village in the early days of the present century. Previous to his advent, the medical profession had been represented by Dr Graham, who resided on the west side of Elm Row. Amongst his successors were the Weirs (father and son), Campbell, Richardson, M'Dougall, and Hutton, whose names are still remembered by the older portion of the inhabitants of the town.

1820 In 1820 the marriage of John Scott of Gala to Miss Magdalene Hope of Pinkie took place, and the approaching nuptials were celebrated by David Thomson, in the following stanzas,—

“The spring returns, and Gala’s banks  
 Again doth shed their sweet perfume;  
 And a’ the creatures play their pranks,  
 That lightly skip o’er dale and down.  
 The little birds with warbling throat  
 Shall sing their tuneful notes with glee,  
 Till a’ our care shall be forgot,  
 Amid the wood’s wild melody.

Fair bloom the flowers by Gala’s banks,  
 By Torwoodlee and Buckholm Shaw;  
 But there’s a flower at Pinkie House,  
 Transplanted, soon shall ding them a’.

The spring returns and with it ‘ Hope,’  
 The dowie scenes nae mair we’ll mourn;  
 The clouds that lang did envelop,  
 Are scattered never to return.  
 May Gala and his bonnie bride  
 Still find the sweets and joys o’ spring,  
 Till blooming shoots on every side,  
 Like clustering grapes around them cling.

Fair bloom the flowers by Gala’s banks,  
 By Torwoodlee and Buckholm Shaw;  
 But there’s a flower at Pinkie House,  
 Transplanted, soon shall ding them a’.

The marriage took place in due course, and again Mr Thomson has left a pleasant picture of the kindly relations that existed between the Laird and the villagers. In this instance Mr Thomson writes in the character of a stranger and onlooker,—

“ I was much surprised in passing through Galashiels the other day to observe an unusual bustle amongst the inhabitants like the prelude to some serious commotion. In an instant almost the whole population of the village



poured forth with drums beating, colours flying, &c., and marching in regular order to the bridge over Gala, where they took up their station.

Anxious to know the meaning of all this, for the people were too cheerful and well-dressed to be mistaken for radicals, I asked at an old woman, the only onlooker besides myself, what was the matter. 'Oh,' says she, 'the Laird and the leddy's comin' hame the day, and the fouk are just come oot to gie them a welcome.' She had scarcely uttered the words when a coach and four was seen approaching at full speed, and in a short time it reached the head of the procession. This coach was at first taken for that of Lord Hermand on his way to the circuit court at Jedburgh, but a nearer view proved it contained more agreeable company. A gentleman and lady were the occupants, who, on being recognised, received such a hearty welcome as must have been most agreeable to their feelings. Much of the order of the procession was now lost in the anxiety of the people to get a sight of the Laird and his lady, who continued to show themselves, bowing to all present with the utmost affability. The coach was led slowly on, and on reaching Gala house the young gentleman handed in his bride and then mounted the dicky of the coach and thanked the people for their friendly attention, saying it was now for him to show his and Mrs Scott's respect for the honour they had done them. 'To-morrow,' he said, 'come all back to my wedding.'

I returned home and that evening, from my residence, I could see beacons blazing on the neighbouring mountains, the four principal inns being filled with numerous guests, where, during the evening, many a bumper was drained to the health and happiness of the newly-married couple.

Being anxious to see the conclusion of the festival, I returned to the scene next day. I was recognised by Mr Craig, the factor on the estate of Gala, and was invited by him to join in the evening's entertainment, to which I willingly consented.

The Manufacturers', and other corporations, under their respective banners, joined by the town's people, assembled at the Cross, and, in excellent order, began their march to Gala House. At the gate, they were met by Mr Scott and his lady, who, there, took up their position till the whole procession had passed, welcoming their guests with the utmost cheerfulness. On the lawn in front of the house, tables were spread, round which the company formed a circle, and the health of Mr Scott and lady were drunk with the utmost enthusiasm. Dancing now began, an exercise too much confined to dusty rooms. On the green the appearance of the various groups was most interesting. The festivities concluded with a supper and ball in the evening. At the supper, many appropriate toasts were given, only one I remember, and that was 'May the example of the Lord of the Manor not be lost on the batchelors of the barony.'

Mr Thomson also produced the following verses in connection with the marriage,—

“Come fie! let us a’ to the weddin’,  
Our Laird’s to be marriet the day;  
An’ a’ the haill toun is invitet  
To welcome his Lady sae gay.  
And there will be dancing and jigging,  
A fiddle frae Selkirk or twa,  
A drum and a fife to keep fluting,  
To cheer up our lasses sae braw.

An’ there will be baked meat an’ roastit,  
An’ puddings an’ pies an’ sic fare,  
An’ shortbread—hoo sweetly we’ll munch it;  
Then surely nae ane can want mair.  
Then hey for a toast! are ye ready?  
To Gala a son and an heir;  
Lang life to the Laird and the Leddy,  
Wi’ plenty an’ something to spare.

Ye lasses that lang hae been slightet,  
Attend noo this night on his ca’,  
For noo is the time to get plightet,  
An’ kissed and carried awa.  
Then fie! let us a’ to the weddin’,  
The Laird’s to be marriet the day;  
An’ a’ the haill toun is invitet,  
To welcome his Lady sae gay.”

## CHAPTER XIV.

**I**N the days before municipal government was established in the town, the Baron or Laird was represented by the Baron Bailie whom he appointed. This functionary, within the bounds of his jurisdiction, could enforce the payment of rents, and decide in disputes regarding money affairs up to a certain amount. In the event of the goods arrested being of less value than the sum sued for, he could sentence the debtor to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one month. For small offences he had power to impose a fine to the amount of twenty shillings, and, as an alternative, could sentence delinquents to be put in the stocks during the daytime for the space of three hours.

In the regulations for the Galashiels grain and meal market, inaugurated in 1849, it was provided that,

“In the event of any person or persons failing or refusing to pay to the Clerk of the Market the penalties or fines above imposed when incurred, *within seven days* from the date of a demand being made by him therefor by circular, such person or persons shall be cited on a complaint, at the instance of the Clerk for the time being, to appear before the Bailie of the barony of Galashiels to answer to the said complaint, and the said Bailie shall thereupon hear and determine the same.”

When George Craig succeeded Bailie Paterson in 1813 as factor on the estate of Gala, there were only eight or nine slated houses in the village, and a great many of the old thatched cottages of which it consisted were falling into a ruinous condition.

About this time the Laird met with a serious accident by being thrown from his horse while hunting. For some time his life was despaired of, but he gradually recovered, and as soon as he was able to stand the fatigue of the journey, he and his family removed to the south of England, where they remained for a number of years.

During his absence Mr Craig was not idle. He diverted the road leading past the "Round Tree," and opened up what was then called the "Swine," or "Miller's, Park," upon which Scott's Place was built, its name being now changed to Bank Street, in all probability on account of the National Bank being opened there in 1825. The houses on the south side of High Street were built upon a site which was formerly a morass, called the "Padda Haugh." Bridge Street was erected in Darling's Haugh, where previously crops of grain were grown. This street is said to have been planned by Mr Craig, and has a peculiarity nowhere observable in any other part of the town. With the exception of the break at Johnstone's Close, the roofs are continuous, the closes or passages which give admission to the rear of the houses being covered by the second floor, thus making the upper flat about six feet longer than the lower one. Originally the right to build was confined to the ground on the south side of the street only, but through the efforts made in 1883 by the congregation belonging to Ladhope Free Church to secure a site for their new building, the restriction was removed, and the Superior granted a deed which conferred the right to build upon what formerly had been garden ground. Island Street was next erected upon the Weir-haugh, and Elm Row replaced a row of thatched cottages, called the "Wynd," upon the site of which the Parish Church is now built. Green Street was erected in a small field called "Cuddy Green," into which the wandering tinkers and others had the privilege of putting their donkeys for the night. Under the management of Mr Craig the village had become a budding town, and Henry Sanderson, manufacturer, the author of *The Unpublished Annals of the Parish*, celebrated his praise in a few complimentary verses, concluding thus,—

"Through thee on wilds of other years,  
A happy village spreads around;  
And Gala's classic bank now wears  
The fabled face of fairy ground."

Commenting on Mr Craig's work, the same authority states,—

“Without Mr Craig and Dr Douglas, Galashiels, at the present time, would be no better than the villages of Lauder or Earlston, Bowden or Darnick.”

1821      At one time the only method of transporting goods between Galashiels and Edinburgh, or elsewhere, was by means of horses and carts. Previous to 1821, a tram road had been laid down between Edinburgh and Dalkeith. At that date the route between Dalkeith and St Boswells was surveyed for a similar line by Robert Stevenson, engineer, Edinburgh, on behalf of the landed proprietors and others throughout the district, whose interests were likely to be affected. These included the Duke of Roxburgh, the Marquis of Lothian, the Earl of Minto, the Hon. W. J. Napier, Sir Walter Scott, James Pringle of Torwoodlee, John Scott of Gala, etc. The proposed line was to be worked by horse power, the route being similar to that covered by the existing railway. According to the engineer's report, Middleton Moss was to be crossed by a chain bridge 500 feet long, and a like bridge was to span the Tweed at Galafoot. The value of the land required for a depôt in Galashiels, at that time, was computed at £50 per acre. It was estimated that the line would cost £63,631, and, after expenses were paid, it was expected that the profit would yield a dividend of seven and a half per cent. The estimate of the amount of revenue was principally based on the carriage of coal and lime. It was calculated that Galashiels would consume annually 3,000 tons of coal, which would require to be conveyed twenty-four miles at twopence per ton per mile, also 1,000 tons of lime to be carried twenty-three miles at the same rate. The amount of imports, consisting of timber, iron, oak bark, grocery and other goods, was calculated at 2,000 tons, no allowance being made for goods exported. The tramway was intended for goods and mineral traffic only, but the report stated that, “were the railway established, there can be little





doubt but vehicles might be constructed for the transit of passengers, although we would not calculate upon much revenue from that source." From some unexplained cause the scheme was abandoned, although subscriptions had been obtained to nearly the required amount.

The following figures will serve to show the difference between the estimated traffic of 6,000 tons in 1821, and the reality at the present date,—

Minerals and goods imported into Galashiels in 1896,	Tons, 114,078
Goods exported from Galashiels in 1896, ...	do. 18,766
Number of parcels forwarded by passenger train, ...	43,641
Do. do. received do. do. ...	47,062
Number of passengers booked at Galashiels Station,	263,792
The number arriving is not tabulated.	

In the early days of the town, men and women worked harder, while their opportunities for amusement were fewer and farther between than at the present day. Ignorant to a large extent of what went on in the great world around them, they found pleasure in objects and pursuits that would now be thought puerile. Amongst other sources of relaxation and enjoyment, the local fairs played no inconsiderable part; they were looked forward to with the keenest anticipation, and furnished matter for gossip long after the event. Especially was this the case with Selkirk and Melrose fairs, to which a large contingent of young people of both sexes used to flock for an afternoon and evening's pleasure.

On one of these occasions two young men named Brown, belonging to Galashiels, set out to attend a Selkirk fair. While enjoying themselves in the customary manner, they succeeded in cultivating the acquaintance of a couple of "weel-faured" lasses, whom, after treating to the usual "fairin'," they had the felicity of escorting home to Galashiels, both being servants in the Bridge Inn. Having been rather smitten by the charms of their respective partners, they shortly afterwards paid a visit to the Bridge Inn for the purpose of



renewing their acquaintanceship. In this they were successful, and, as there was no particular hour for closing in those days, their charmers held them in sweet converse till the small hours of the following morning. At length they took their departure, and, whether due to the effects of love, liquor, or both combined, they had no sooner reached the street than they commenced to give vent to the exuberance of their feelings by perpetrating as much mischief as they could conveniently overtake on their way homeward. After overturning all the water barrels they could lay hands upon, and changing the wheels of several carts, they started to awaken all and sundry within their reach. This, however, did not continue long; the irritated villagers soon put a stop to their performance by sallying out and capturing them. They were at once identified, and some indignant victim lodged a complaint with the county Fiscal. Investigation was made, and that official came to the conclusion that the affair was more the result of a frolic than from any malicious design. He quietly advised the culprits to wait upon the Sheriff at Abbotsford, to whom the papers relating to the case would be sent. Acting on his advice, and fortified with testimonials of character from their employer, "Baron Brown," they proceeded to Abbotsford in much fear and trembling. Arriving there, they were ushered into the study, where they found the Sheriff. Extenuating nothing, they made a clean breast of the whole affair. Sir Walter told them they could not be allowed to disturb the quiet people of Galashiels in such a manner, and, after a few questions, he asked the amount of their wages. Being satisfied upon this point, he proceeded to inform them that he considered it a great affront to young people like them to be committed to jail, and, in the circumstances, would prefer to impose a fine. "Would it distress you to pay half a guinea each?" was his next question, and this they thankfully agreed to do. Handing the money to the butler on retiring, they made their way home, poorer but wiser men, and in a day or two afterwards received the following acknowledgment, which is still to be seen at Selkirk, carefully preserved by a son of John Brown,—

GEORGE AND JOHN BROWN,

You have paid into my hands one guinea, being the amount of a fine imposed on you by my sentence of this date for disorderly proceedings at Galashiels on the night of the eighth current, of which fine you are hereby discharged, and I will remit the same to the proper quarter.

Recommending you to be more circumspect in future,

I am, &c.,

Abbotsford, 10th April, 1824.

WALTER SCOTT.

1825 In 1825 the population of the village was 1600, and their spiritual necessities were attended to by the ministers, pastors, and elders of the Established, Baptist, Glassite, and Secession Churches. At the same date the following inns were in existence,—The Hall, Commercial, Bridge, and Fleece, besides six public-houses and ten spirit shops, being one to every eighty of the population. There was neither jail nor policeman. Mr Craig, the Baron Bailie, was the only individual who dispensed justice. All the traffic to and from Edinburgh was overtaken by Messrs Young and Richardson, while one carrier each sufficed for Hawick and Kelso. There were ten shoemakers, seven tailors, six butchers, and of blacksmiths and bakers there were five each. There were also four carpenters, three millwrights, three skimmers, two saddlers, two plasterers, one watchmaker, one nailer, one glazier, and one who dealt in earthenware. There were two firms of builders, two fire and life assurance agents, two surgeons, and two banks. For those desirous of travelling either to Edinburgh or Jedburgh opportunity was afforded by the “Chevy Chase” and “Blucher” coaches, which started at 10 A.M. for Edinburgh, and at 1.30 P.M. for Jedburgh.

1827 At the present day it would be rather startling to hear of highway robbery being committed in the district, but in 1827 it would appear as if law and order had not been observed to the same extent as it is now, when such an occurrence is unknown.

While passing through Buckholm Wood, a Galashiels man, named Robert Aimers, was attacked and robbed at that date. Two weeks later another attempt was made upon a Mr Ingram, who resided in the locality. He had been visiting at a

farm near Stow, and was supplied with a horse for the return journey, a servant accompanying him to take back the animal. In passing through the same wood, his bridle was seized by two men, who demanded his money. Knowing that the servant was only a short distance behind, Mr Ingram commenced to remonstrate with the robbers, and used every means to cause delay. In this he was successful, for, upon the servant making his appearance, they at once decamped. On the following Saturday night, Robert Howden was attacked and rendered senseless, the robbers relieving him of all he had in his pockets. When he became conscious the thieves had disappeared, and he made his way home as speedily as possible, and reported the outrage. Mr Craig caused the drum to be beaten to arouse the villagers, and in a short time a party of men set out to scour Buckholm Wood with the view of securing the robbers, but owing to the darkness they were obliged to return unsuccessful.

1828      About the year 1828 great excitement prevailed in consequence of the graveyards, especially in country districts, being rifled to secure bodies for anatomical schools in Edinburgh and elsewhere. The columns of the local press of that date teem with instances in which the "resurrectionists," as they were termed, had either been successful or had been scared in the attempt. The authorities appeared to be unable to suppress these outrages, and the feelings of the relatives were lacerated in many cases with the knowledge that the bodies of their loved ones had been carried off for dissection. This reign of terror at length culminated in the notorious case of Burke and Hare, who, assisted by Hare's wife, murdered several people in Edinburgh, whom, on various pretexts, they had enticed into their dwelling, for the sake of the price they received for the bodies.

In order to protect the graves in the old churchyard from being desecrated, the villagers organised themselves, and, when necessary, armed patrols kept nightly watch over the remains of the silent dead. It is said that the ancient burial place at Lindean proved a happy hunting ground for these body snatchers, owing

to its lonely and isolated position. Arrangements were at length made by the authorities whereby subjects could be acquired in sufficient number, which put a stop to the scandalous method that had been formerly pursued.

Floods in the Gala caused considerable trouble in the town's early days, and on some occasions boats had to be brought from Boldside to rescue inhabitants who had been surrounded by the torrent. One of these inundations occurred  
1829 in 1829, which, but for the extraordinary efforts put forth, might have carried away the lower part of the town. With a view to stem the destructive power of the torrent, fir trees were cut down and dragged by horses to the edge of the stream, and were thrown in at such places as were most exposed. They were securely fastened, and comparative calm was produced behind the barrier, the thick branches so breaking and resisting the force of the current as to render it powerless to cause further damage.

1830 In 1830 there were only two houses on the north side of the Gala, in Darling's haugh, and the road to Melrose crossed the stream at Langhaugh ford, foot passengers finding their way across on stepping stones when the water was low. Before 1833 a wooden bridge was erected, designed by William Kemp, and was of a somewhat novel construction. This bridge stood till about 1841, when it was replaced by a stone one, built by Adam Stirling, builder. In 1846 it was rendered insecure by a flood, and stood in this condition for the next two years, when it was repaired by the contractors for the railway. In 1866 it was found to be too narrow and inconvenient for the increasing traffic. It was demolished, and, owing largely to the exertions of John Thorburn, auctioneer, the present bridge was erected.

## CHAPTER XV.

**O**RIGINALLY the town was built upon a long narrow strip of ground, nearly all on the south side of Gala. Before entering the village, the traveller from Edinburgh had to pass Richardson's Corn Mill, standing on the narrow haugh between the steep bank and the water. Pursuing his way, he approached High Buckholmside, which then formed part of a separate village. At the foot of the gardens which sloped down from the road stood Comelybank, in a pleasant situation overlooking the Gala. At its lower end lay the garden which belonged to Richard Lees, with its noted summer-house overhanging the calm, clear, cauld pool, its mirrored ceiling reflecting the speckled trouts as they leisurely swam to and fro. Passing onward, Ladhope Inn is reached, the halting place of the once well-known coach the "Blucher." The road now trends downwards, having on the left Ladhope plantations, and low down on the right stand the Brewery, Blaikie's skin works, Sanderson & Paterson's woodyard, and Buckholmside Mill. Straight in front lay the pastoral stretch of green sward, where, according to tradition, Cromwell and his Ironsides had bivouacked. Crossing the Gala by the "Stane Brig," and turning round Nannie Knox's corner, the "Auld Street" is entered, where "Willie a' things," Oliver, the baker; Dickson, shoemaker; Walker, tailor; Dr Weir, and other well-known names were to be found. Arriving at the foot of the street, the Waulkmillhead Mill comes into view, where, against the dyke, lay the old wooden axle of the mill wheel. Here the village worthies, with their aprons round their waists, used to congregate when the toils of the day were over, to smoke their pipes and discuss "Yirl Grey's" famous Reform Bill. Here the Fair used to be held, to which the "sweetie wives" came with their "krames," and the "Selkirk bodies" with their

snaps and gingerbread. Passing down "Brodie's Raw," or the "Cowgate," now termed Overhaugh Street, the Subscription School appears standing in the centre of an open square. Surrounding it were the workshops of Mitchell, the smith; and Jamie Leitch, the cooper; "Willie Wud's" skinwork, and the stove-house, where, in the absence of "drouth," the manufacturers of that period dried their cloth. At this time an open burn flowed from the mill lade along a part of the east side of the square and was joined by another streamlet from the "Padda Haugh" which ran down the back of the High Street and "Chingle," where "Auld Whirliegig" kept the beggar's opera. Turning southward along Sharp Street, the Corn Mill stood in front, to the left the Damside, and to the right Scott's Place, where, amongst others, dwelt Haldane, the banker; Jamie Hutton, joiner; Jamie Riddell, tailor; and Simon Dobson, shoemaker. At the top of the Lawyer's Brae stood Thorburn's Inn, and after passing the Cross and Mr Henderson's Meeting-house, the road turned to the right, passed Jenny Sharpe's Moss, and on to Selkirk.

At this period the present road to Selkirk did not exist. The Tweed had either to be crossed by the bridge at Yair, forded at "Needle Ha'" ford, or ferried at Boldside. The inconvenience of this road had been much felt, and the following petition was presented,—

"Unto the Honourable the Trustees for the Public Roads of the County of Selkirk, the Petition of the Inhabitants of Galashiels

Humbly sheweth that while they acknowledge with gratitude the general improvement of the roads of the county, yet one impediment still remains to the great inconvenience of the public, that is the want of bridges over Tweed and Ettrick. These would connect the county, shorten the distance and unite at Galashiels with the unrivalled line of road that has brought such blessings on this town and neighbourhood.

It is unnecessary for your Petitioners to dwell on the many advantages that would follow this alteration, they would only beg in a more particular manner that you would take into your early and earnest consideration this great public measure which is so much required for the general accommodation of the county."

Whether this petition had any effect cannot now be determined, but the foundation stone of the bridge over Tweed was laid by Sir Walter Scott in 1831, while, on the same day, Charles B. Scott of Woll performed a similar ceremony at the bridge which spans the Ettrick at Lindean.

Hitherto no record is to be found of any interest having been taken in Parliamentary elections by the inhabitants of the town. In 1831 a serious incident occurred at the election of a delegate to represent Lauder Town Council in an impending county election, in regard to which the members were equally divided. In these circumstances the difficulty was solved by three young men belonging to Galashiels, whose names were Alexander Clapperton, John Henderson, and Thomas Turnbull. On the election day, along with a number of others, the three worthies made their way to Lauder, and took forcible possession of a carriage containing Charles Simson of Threepwood, a supporter of the Tory candidate. The services of the driver being summarily dispensed with, one of the trio mounted the box and drove off, the other two seated themselves in the interior, where they forcibly detained Mr Simson. As the deed had been done openly, it was not long till they were pursued by a party of horsemen, who, after scouring the country, ultimately succeeded in effecting their capture in the neighbourhood of Birkenside, between Earlston and Lauder.

The culprits were taken before Colonel Shillinglaw, J.P., when their names were ascertained, and, at Mr Simson's request, they were set at liberty, as he stated they had treated him kindly, though he had been prevented from voting. The matter, however, was of too criminal a character to be allowed to drop, and, by the instructions of the Lord Advocate, the three men were apprehended and lodged in Greenlaw Jail.

When their arrest was made, it created great excitement in the town, and, when it became known that the prisoners were to be transferred to Jedburgh upon a certain date, it was resolved by a few hot-heads to intercept the conveyance and liberate them. Accordingly, on the appointed day, about seventy men

belonging to the town, armed with sticks, started for Leaderfoot, for the purpose of effecting a rescue. On arriving there, however, they learned to their chagrin that they were too late, the police and their prisoners had already passed. When this became known, about half of the party returned home, while the remainder pushed on for Jedburgh. On their arrival, they made a fruitless effort to obtain aid for the purpose of attacking the jail. They found that they had miscalculated the spirit that animated the people, as they could not obtain one single person to countenance their lawless proceeding. On the contrary, when their intention became known, a number of the townsmen offered their services to the authorities in the event of an attack being made. In these circumstances, and probably having come to the conclusion that discretion was the better part of valour, the men turned their faces homeward. It happened that the Sheriff-substitutes of the counties of Roxburgh and Selkirk, with their respective Fiscals, were at St Boswells that day, and considerable apprehensions were entertained for their safety, but no attempt was made to molest them.

In consequence of the Baron Bailie's man, Robert Howden, being concerned in the apprehension of the prisoners, public feeling ran high against him. This culminated in a mob marching to his house in Sharp Street (now Market Street), and, as he declined their invitation to come out and be "dook'd" in the mill dam, which then ran open past the end of the street, they broke his window with stones, while one of the party lifted the "clog" which lay at the side of the door, and, dashing it against the framework, carried the whole window into the middle of the floor. Things began to look serious, but Rob's blood was up, and he determined to defend himself to the bitter end. For this purpose he presented to the unruly crowd the business end of "Brown Bess," as he styled his old gun. This proved sufficient, the rioters fled like rabbits, and turning their attention to Stephen Metcalf, wrecked his dwelling, which was situated in the Damside,



because he sometimes acted as an assistant to Howden when his services were required.

In the meantime the prisoners were liberated, bail being fixed at £60 each. The cautioners for Clapperton were Robert Weir, surgeon; George Simpson, teacher; and William Gill, manufacturer. Those for Henderson were James Sime, jun., manufacturer; Robert Oliver, inn-keeper; and John Hislop, ironmonger; while those for Turnbull were Robert Turnbull, bank clerk; Thomas Aitchison, merchant; and Archibald Elliot, joiner. Previous to the trial the culprits absconded, and when the case was called in the High Court of Justiciary at Edinburgh, on the 21st November, 1831, they failed to appear, and the Solicitor-General moved for fugitation and forfeiture of the bail bonds. Objection was taken to the forfeiture by the cautioners on the ground that the time of their liability had expired on the 18th of the month, while the trial did not take place until three days after. This objection was sustained by the Court, and, while the culprits were outlawed, their cautioners saved their money.

None of the fugitives ever came back to reside in the town, though, as the sequel proved, it was perhaps the best day's work they ever did, as they succeeded in obtaining positions in London and elsewhere much superior to what they probably would have attained in Galashiels. Years afterwards, at considerable expense, the outlawry was removed through the exertion of the once well-known Joseph Hume, Member of Parliament for Montrose.

## CHAPTER XVI.

**I**T would appear that in 1831 the constabulary of the county of Selkirk were not considered sufficient for the proper discharge of the duties they might be called upon to perform, and the expedient of supplementing them by a number of special constables was adopted.

Accordingly, on the 14th June, 1831, the Justices granted commission to James Pringle of Torwoodlee, to cause the following persons belonging to Galashiels to be sworn in as special constables in the county of Selkirk,—George Paterson, clothier; James Brown, clothier; James Walker, weaver; Robert Walker, clothier; Henry Brown, clothier; George Dun, residenter; Robert Gill, sen., clothier; Robert Sanderson, clothier; George Anderson, Netherbarns; George Roberts, clothier; James Bathgate, clothier; George Ballantyne, Mossilee; J. Fairgrieve, clothier; Thomas M'Gill, clothier; Thomas Nicol, flesher; Archibald Elliot, joiner; James Roxburgh, flesher; Robert Haldane, writer; William Paterson, tanner; Robert Rankin, labourer; William Young, carter. With the exception of James Walker, Robert Gill, James Brown, and Robert Haldane, who from various causes were unable to attend, the remainder were sworn in as special constables, the following being the oath used on the occasion,—

“I do swear that I shall faithfully and truly discharge the office of constabulary within the county of Selkirk during the time appointed to me, and shall not for favour, respect, or fear of any man, forbear to do what becometh me in the said office. And above all things, I shall regard the keeping and preserving the King's Majesty's peace, and shall at every Quarter Session and meeting of Justices give true and due information of any breach which hath been made of His Majesty's peace within the bounds of my commandment, and shall in no way hide, cover, nor conceal the same, nor any of the proofs or evidences which I can give for the clearing and proving thereof.—So help me God.”

This organisation existed till 1867, and, during the years of their office, the county treated the force to an annual dinner in recognition of their services. The increased efficiency of the police rendered the special constables unnecessary, and application was made to the Sheriff to discharge the body. This, however, was not within his power, owing to the force being originally organised by the Sheriff and Justices of the Peace, therefore the individual members resigned, and, after being in existence for thirty-six years, they ceased to act.

Notwithstanding the services of so many good men and true, it would appear as if they were sometimes in the position ascribed to the modern policeman, viz., not at hand when wanted.

1832 In 1832 the contest was fought between Pringle of Clifton and Pringle of Yair, for the representation of the county of Selkirk. On that occasion Pringle of Clifton, the Whig candidate, entertained his friends and supporters in the Bridge Inn, and, as was customary in those days, the liquor was not strictly confined to the guests. This liberality on the part of the candidate resulted in a number of the reformers, as they styled themselves, drinking more than was good for them, and showing a disposition to riot. At this juncture, a carriage containing Thomas Bruce of Langlee and his wife, on their way homeward from a dinner party at Gala House, came through the town. The fact of Mr Bruce being a Tory formed an excellent excuse for making an attack upon him. Mrs Bruce narrowly escaped being struck on the head by a large stone thrown through the carriage window. Before the reformers had testified their utter abhorrence of Tory principles they had smashed the carriage to fragments. Other two carriages now came upon the scene, containing James Pringle of Torwoodlee and Archibald Gibson of Ladhope, who, also on account of their political principles, were abused, but not to such an extent.

On the following day, when the outrage became known, a considerable number of the inhabitants met and subscribed a

sum of money for the purpose of offering a reward for the conviction of the rioters, and the following advertisement was issued,—

“REWARD OF SIXTY POUNDS.

“Whereas upon the evening of Thursday, 16th August last, between the hours of nine and ten, Thomas Bruce of Langlee, James Pringle of Torwoodlee, and Archibald Gibson of Ladhope were assaulted by a mob of persons with stones and other missiles, the above reward is offered to any one who will provide such information as will lead to the conviction of the offenders.”

This amount was made up by a contribution of £30 from the inhabitants, £10 from John Scott of Gala, and £20 from the county authorities. Despite the fact that a considerable number of the perpetrators of this outrage were perfectly well known, the police were unable to bring the offenders to justice.

Notwithstanding the excitement caused throughout the country by the passing of the Reform Bill, the doings of the inhabitants of Galashiels on that occasion are not recorded. The only reference yet met with is contained in an old cash book which belonged to the Weavers' Corporation, in which an entry is made to the following effect,—“July 3rd, Expenses for the flag, and for the Reform procession, 6s.”

In 1832 a large coal depôt was established in the town, which was intended to equalise the price of coal all the year round, and to supply the poor with small quantities at the ordinary rate, in place of being charged twenty-five per cent. higher, as had hitherto been the case. The coal was brought from Midlothian in carts, a load varying from twenty-five to thirty cwt., which sold at prices ranging from 9d to 1s per cwt.

1833 In 1833 the necessity for a regular supply of coal began to be felt, as at that date the Galashiels Gas Company came into existence. This concern originated at a meeting held on the 29th September, George Craig in the chair. In opening the proceedings, the Chairman stated the object of the meeting, and pointed out various reasons why it would be

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advantageous to have a Gas Company. Robert Gill moved "That the town be lighted with gas, and that a company should be formed for the purpose." This was seconded by Robert Fyshe, schoolmaster, and unanimously carried. George Paterson then proposed "That the funds necessary for the purpose be raised by subscription in shares of £5 each." This was seconded by George Roberts, junr., and approved of. Mr Fyshe then proposed "That a committee be formed for the purpose of giving effect to the foregoing resolutions." This was done, and the necessary steps were at once taken to raise the capital for carrying out the scheme. Among the original shareholders were Robert Pringle of Clifton, M.P.; John Stewart, merchant, Edinburgh; John Baird, Shott's Ironworks; Samuel Aitken, Edinburgh,—twenty shares each; Robert Haldane, Gill, Sime & Co.; Sanderson & Paterson, R. & A. Sanderson, Roberts & Paterson, R. & G. Lees, G. Main, Kelso; The Hon. Captain Elliot,—ten shares each; Robert Fyshe, George Craig, William Thomson, John Haldane, John Clapperton, W. Roberts, junr.; John Aimers, J. & W. Cochrane, Alexander Brodie, John Anderson, Selkirk; Nicol Milne, Faldonside; George Anderson, Netherbarns—five shares each; and the remainder of the capital, which amounted to £1780, was subscribed in sums varying from £5 to £20.

Not only was a regular supply of coal required for the manufacture of gas, but steam had already begun to be used as a motive power. This originally was on a small scale, and consisted of an engine of three horse-power, used for grinding bark in the tannery; one of two horse-power, used in the Brewery; and one each of one horse-power, used by Thomas Anderson, millwright, and John Hislop, blacksmith.

Previous to 1830, a change in the public taste had taken place regarding the style of cloth produced in the town. A crisis in the trade was the cause of a considerable amount of idleness and consequent distress, which prevailed for a lengthened period. So much was this felt, that many of the town's people were reduced to the necessity of purchasing the bread and meal

sold by the beggars to Johnny Stewart, who kept a public lodging-house in the "pend" in Sharp Street, and which, under ordinary conditions, were used for feeding pigs.

In these circumstances, in order to raise funds to assist in relieving the prevailing distress, charity balls were organised. In addition to the balance which was expected to remain after the expenses were paid, donations towards the same object were received from landed proprietors and others in the neighbourhood. The first of these gatherings took place in the Bridge Inn assembly room, the managers for the occasion being Robert Gill, junr., Galashiels; Robert G. Thomson, Melrose; and Henry Hume, Selkirk. The company numbered fifty-four gentlemen and twenty ladies, belonging to Galashiels, Selkirk, Hawick, Peebles, Stow, and Melrose. There were also representatives from Smailholm, Belses, Dalkeith, and Edinburgh. The following extract from the cash book shows the income and expenditure,—

## AN ACCOUNT OF THE MONEY RECEIVED AT THE BALL.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
54 gentlemen's tickets at 6s, ... ..				15	18	0
20 ladies' tickets at 3s, ... ..				3	0	0
Donations, ... ..				9	13	0
Paid Murray's bill, viz.,						
4 bottles whisky toddy at 3s 8d, ... ..	14	8				
3 dozen beer at 3s, ... ..	9	0				
Wine for the ladies, 18/; Keep of the carriage horses, 8/,	1	6	0			
Fiddlers' bill, 15/11; coachman's bill, 4/8, ...	1	0	7			
Rent of the ball-room, ... ..	1	1	0			
Allowance for servants, 7/; door-keeper, 2/, ...	9	0				
Paid Mr Fair's account, ... ..	£0	14	8			
Off received for the playing cards, ... ..	4	6				
			10	2		
Gideon Brown for beef, £1, 1/6; Mr Milne for bread, 9/,	1	10	6			
Mrs Matthew for candles and mustard, ... ..	13	10				
J. Wright, Hawick, musician, £3, 15/; coachman, 5/,	4	0	0			
Coach hire to Mr Mitchell, Selkirk, 14/6; wine carriage, 1/,	15	6				
			12	10	3	
Expenses,			16	0	9	
Balance,						
	£28	11	0	£28	11	0

David Thomson celebrated the occasion in these lines,—

“Ye ladies so fair, and yeomen so bright,  
Who have honoured our ball with your presence to-night,  
Accept of the thanks our bosom now feels,  
Along with the blessing of all Galashiels.  
When youth and when beauty at Charity's call  
Assemble, the motive ennoble the ball.”

These gatherings were maintained annually for a few years, but in 1839, principally on account of lowering the price of the tickets, it was found that a portion of the donations had been required to liquidate the expenditure, and they were then discontinued.

An extraordinary exodus from the town and district took place about this period. It would appear as if it had been going on for some years, as, in 1826, the Rev. James Henderson nearly lost heart in consequence of the falling off in his congregation owing to emigration. James Hogg, the Ettrick Shepherd, refers to the circumstance in 1833 in the following words,—

“But never till now did the Borderers rush from their native country with all the symptoms of reckless despair. It is most deplorable. The whole of our most valuable peasantry and operative manufacturers are leaving us. All who have made a little money to freight them over the Atlantic and procure them a settlement in America, Van Dieman's land, or New South Wales, are hurrying from us, as from a place infected with the plague. Every day the desire to emigrate increases both in amount and in intensity. In the industrious village of Galashiels, fifty-two are already booked for transportation.”

What the reasons may have been for this unusual state of things cannot be easily given, except that the people had become afflicted with a mania for emigration, such as has been witnessed within comparatively recent years. Though trade had been extremely bad in the town for some years, at this particular time work was plentiful, as a paragraph from a provincial paper would denote,—

“Having lately had occasion to visit the thriving town of Galashiels, I was delighted to witness the prevailing stir and bustle. On conversing with some of the most extensive manufacturers, I was informed that orders were coming in far faster than they could be completed, and that while Galashiels cloth still maintained its predominance, the manufacture of woollen checked shawls of various colours, lately introduced, are now brought to great perfection.”

1836 In 1836, in order to ascertain the views which existed relative to the introduction of municipal government, a Commission examined the Baron Bailie and some of the principal inhabitants, all of whom agreed that a change was indispensable. While the local authority within the barony was limited, there was no local jurisdiction over those parts of the town that lay beyond it, and which contained more than half of the population. The Bailie stated that, though he had no powers outside the barony, his recommendations as Magistrate were ordinarily obeyed. Great practical inconvenience arose in connection with the police in consequence of the town being situated in two counties, by reason of the ready opportunity afforded to delinquents of passing from one county to another. Inconvenience was likewise experienced from the distance of the county towns, Selkirk and Jedburgh. Much embarrassment was also felt for want of power to impose a compulsory assessment for cleaning, lighting, and paving, as experience had proved that the expense of these could not be effectually defrayed by voluntary subscription. A junction of all the portions of the town, in relation to jurisdiction and police, was required, the criminal authority to be equal to that of a Justice of the Peace, and the Civil Courts empowered to try actions for debt to the amount of £5.

A diversity of opinion existed between the Bailie and the inhabitants regarding the necessary qualification to secure a vote. While declining to give an opinion regarding a popularly-elected Magistracy, the Bailie favoured a qualification of a yearly rent in property to the amount of £15. The inhabitants, on the other hand, considered that the Municipality should consist of a Magistrate and three Councillors popularly elected,—the



qualification being £10 in property and tenancy. On this footing there would have been about 115 electors; and, if the qualification was £5, the number would have been increased to 150.

The Commissioners considered it important to ascertain what the inhabitants thought the boundaries of the proposed burgh should be, in the event of its being created, and the following limits were agreed upon,—

“From the dam head north to the Edinburgh road, and east to a point north of the farm house of Langhaugh, thence across Gala at Langhaugh ford, thence down the south side of the water to the foot of the mill lade, thence to a point at the south of the Burgher Meeting-house at the Selkirk road, from thence to the south side of Gala House, and in line with the south end of Mr Lees’ mill to the mill dam.”

The Commissioners concurred in the opinion that these boundary lines were in all respects suitable. From the details given, it was considered that there could be no doubt that the town of Galashiels, in its most extensive meaning, should have conferred upon it a municipal government, adjusted on such principles as would unite rules for its security, in its actual state, with provisions adapted to its probable future expansion.

Increased facilities, both as regards the means of travelling and the transmission of goods, were enjoyed by the inhabitants 1837 in 1837. There were now four coaches passing through the town every lawful day,—only the Mail running on the Sabbath. These were,—the “Royal Mail” from London to Edinburgh, which called at the Bridge Inn every day at twelve o’clock; the “Blucher,” from Jedburgh to Edinburgh, called at 10 A.M. at Ford’s, Buckholmside; the “Standard,” from Carlisle to Edinburgh, called at the Bridge Inn at 3.30 P.M.; and the “Chevy Chase,” from Newcastle, called at 5 P.M. at Wilson’s, Buckholmside. The “Blucher” ran to Jedburgh every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday; the “Royal Mail” to London every morning at 10.30 A.M.; and the “Standard” at 8.30 P.M., going

through Selkirk, Hawick, Langholm, and Longtown. For London and Newcastle the "Chevy Chase" left at 11 A.M., going by Melrose and Jedburgh.

Besides a considerable addition to the horses and carts employed in the coal and lime traffic, the number of carriers to Edinburgh had increased to six, to Hawick three, to Carlisle two, and one each to Newcastle, Selkirk, Lilliesleaf, Lauder, Kelso, and Melrose.

At this time a grievance arose in connection with the carrying trade, owing to the exorbitant rates charged by the Roxburghshire Road Trustees at Whitlaw toll-bar, which had been raised to treble the amount charged in Midlothian. In order to arrive at a better understanding with the county authorities, a meeting was held in Galashiels, at which John Sanderson, timber merchant, presided. A committee was appointed to attend to the interests of the town, and the following intimation was made to the Trustees,—

"The inhabitants of Galashiels and neighbourhood have resolved that until a satisfactory modification of the rates at Whitlaw toll-bar takes place, to send all their carts round by Clovenfords and Crosslee, and to purchase no coal from any person or persons whatever not carted as aforesaid. And they further bind themselves not to employ any carrier but those that conform to the above resolution. This to take effect in the space of eight days from this date, when due notice will be given to all concerned.

On the part of the inhabitants a committee has been appointed to negotiate with the toll-keeper for an enumeration of differences in order that a regular and satisfactory adjustment may be made, until the Trustees in their wisdom reverse the grievance complained of."

This action on the part of the inhabitants proved successful, and the obnoxious overcharge was speedily removed.

1840 In connection with the death of John Scott of Gala, which occurred in 1840, the following letter was written to George Paterson, manufacturer, by Mrs Scott. It explains itself, and is interesting on account of the light it throws on funeral customs at that period, and also on the kindly relations that existed between the town's people and the Scott family.

"GALA HOUSE, *September 17th, 1840.*

SIR,—It was only last week I was able to make inquiries relative to the sad ceremonies in this house on Friday the 14th August, as my sons were not able to give me much information on such a painful subject, and I am deeply grieved to find that owing to the unfortunate circumstance of the family being from home, and also from the youth and total inexperience of my son, that some distressing mistakes did occur in the arrangements I had directed to be made. I consider it only due to myself, however painful to my feelings, to trouble you, as a manufacturer (and also as you were intimately connected in early life with this family) with a statement of directions given by our friend Mr Tod, W.S., and myself. Mr Tod wrote on Monday, 11th, directing that all tenants, feuars, and respectable inhabitants of Galashiels were to be invited, that refreshments were to be laid out in the dining room for any one, that wine and cake were to be provided, and given to every one. No spirits whatever to be given, and dinners for the tenants and feuars at the inns, &c.

I felt so much anxiety (from our absence) that everything should be conducted in a proper and respectful manner toward our neighbours, that I thought it necessary to make the exertion of writing myself, to mention the above arrangements, and also gave direction that all the company should be shown into the drawing room, dining room, and lobbies, and that plenty of wine was to be handed about with cake. I sent a list of those invited, in order to be assured that as far as one could know as few persons as possible were omitted.

On Thursday morning I received a letter from Mr Craig, stating that he understood that the factories were to be closed on the 14th, and that the operatives wished either to attend in the procession, or to be drawn up from the gate, as we thought proper. I think this request was made through your means, and I do assure you, that the deep sympathy and kind feelings shown by all ranks in Galashiels were most gratefully felt by the family, and will not be forgotten.

I felt very great satisfaction on receiving this last mark of respect and attachment, and returned an answer by the earliest coach, saying so, and that I wished the operatives should be drawn up from the house door, and that each operative should get one glass of whisky.

It gives me and my family great distress to learn that some of these arrangements were not so well carried through as we would have wished, and that many gentlemen who honoured us with their attendance should not have been in the house or received those civilities and attentions necessary to be observed on such a solemn occasion.

You will confer a great favour upon me if you will be so kind as offer my deep regrets to the feuars and inhabitants for the unfortunate errors, and that I do trust, that under all the circumstances I have mentioned to you, they will have the goodness to accept of my sincere and heartfelt apologies.

I remain, Sir, Yours obediently,

To MR GEORGE PATERSON.

MADALINE SCOTT."

In Fullarton's *Gazetteer of Scotland*, published in 1843, the appearance and condition of the town are thus described,—

“Galashiels consists of one long bent street and two shorter and new streets, the whole dotted round with detached buildings winged with drying and bleaching grounds, and stretching along a narrow strip of plain between the river and the neighbouring heights. On the north side the town is more irregular in form, ascending in straggling lines of buildings up to the Edinburgh road. The two districts are connected with a stone bridge, an iron suspension bridge, and an ingeniously-constructed timber bridge, the two latter being for foot passengers only. All the houses are built of blue whinstone, and, though a manufacturing town, it partakes not a jot of the dinginess so generally belonging to places of its class. The factories being worked by water, the ground attached to them being painted over with the many-coloured fabrics which are hung out to complete the process for the market, the dispersedness of the seats of stir and activity at intervals on the banks of the pastoral stream, the picturesque features of the rich landscape which sweep around, all contribute to protect Galashiels from descending to the sootiness of most other seats of manufacture. With the exception of the churches the town is destitute of all public buildings. Even the shops are few and tiny compared either with its population or manufacturing importance. Its streets, during the hours of labour, have the silence and wealthless aspect almost of a hamlet in the Highlands. Its markets are defunct, and its fairs are fast following their example. There are branch offices of the Leith Bank and the National Bank of Scotland, a savings bank, a friendly society, a reading room, two subscription libraries, a small printing office, and an excellent grammar and boarding school, besides other schools. The town has no police establishment, though it is watched under night by a constable paid by the county of Roxburgh. Attempts have been made to light and clean it by voluntary subscription, which hitherto have been only partially successful. There is also a brewery, and an establishment for the tanning of leather, the dressing of skins, and the construction of machinery for woollen manufacturers. There are 9 factories, each employing about 40 persons. Of late years it has made rapid advances, and it is possible that the town will continue to increase.”

1844 In 1844 a meeting was held in the Bridge Inn assembly room for the purpose of taking steps to promote a line of railway between Edinburgh and Galashiels, with the view of ultimately extending it to Hawick and Selkirk. The chair was occupied by Major-General Sir James Russell, K.C.B., of Ashiestiel. The chairman explained the object of the meeting, and stated that the capital necessary to form the line, estimated

to amount to £10,000 per mile, was to be provided by a London company. The Hon. John E. Elliot, William Hastie, Baron Bailie, successor to George Craig; James Curle, Melrose; and Bailie Muir, Selkirk, also commended the object of the meeting, and a committee was appointed to make inquiry and report to a meeting to be held at a future date. In due course another meeting was held in the same place to hear the committee's report—Mr Hastie in the chair. According to the statement, it appeared that an agreement had been entered into between the projectors of the proposed line and the North British Railway Company, who had agreed to pay all expenses already incurred for survey, etc., to obtain a bill from Parliament, and to take all necessary steps to complete the undertaking without delay.

There were comparatively few public entertainments at this period. It was customary, especially during the summer months, for the town to be visited with shows of various kinds, menageries, etc., but the great event of the season was the appearance of Ord, the greatest equestrian Scotland ever saw, whose performance was carried out in the open air. In his case there was no need for agents in advance, processions, or other means calculated to raise an excitement. The boys belonging the town were always posted up regarding the arrival of Delaney, his clown, whom, along with the able-bodied members of the company, they watched while they prepared the "ring." This latterly used to occupy that ground upon which Ladhope School is built.

The town had begun to show signs of a vigorous growth,  
1845 as, in 1845, the following paragraph appeared in a Dumfries newspaper,—

"On visiting the town of Galashiels lately, we were struck with the great progress it had made in new manufactories and handsome dwellings and shops. Victoria Buildings is a place worthy of Edinburgh. The population of the town is now fully five thousand, and there are three banks in it, all doing well.

The water power is exhausted between this and the Tweed, but in summer time, when the dam is low, several of the manufacturers are using steam as a supplement."

1846 In 1846 there was quite a flutter among the friendly societies in the town owing to the idea that the payments were not sufficient to ensure the amount of relief they were entitled to according to their rules. The Rechabite and Oddfellows' Societies numbered about 200 members each, and the first broke up. The Oddfellows, by a majority, also agreed to dissolve the society and divide the funds, but the office-bearers, who were in the minority, declined to hand over the money; eventually, however, it also was dissolved.

## CHAPTER XVII.

**T**HE formation of the railway had now begun in the district, and Comelybank and a portion of Low Buckholmside had been acquired by the Railway Company, who utilised these properties to provide quarters for the navvies employed in its construction.

1847      In 1847 the contractor for the work in the immediate locality, named Dodds, became bankrupt, and as the men employed on that section of the line found themselves without either food or credit, disturbances were not long in arising. In a few days, however, money was sent from Edinburgh, and the wages were paid; but, as the work had been brought to a temporary stoppage, idleness prevailed, and a considerable amount of drunkenness ensued. Under these conditions it was not long till the police had to interfere, and they were being roughly handled when the town's people came to their assistance, and drove the navvies to their quarters. As soon as the police retired they again sallied forth and smashed all the windows in Low Buckholmside. The county authorities were now communicated with, and the Sheriff came upon the scene. The Riot Act was read from the top of the steps at the Bridge Inn door, and the Sheriff advised the inhabitants to retire to their homes, and, if their services were required, they would be called out. Rather reluctantly, they obeyed. Stones were flying like hail, and a number of people were cut and bruised, one having his arm broken. The police from the surrounding districts were drafted into the town, and, assisted by the town's people, the riot was finally quelled without involving more bloodshed than resulted from a number of broken heads.

In consequence of the same bankruptcy, serious rioting occurred at Lauder. The proprietor of the local "tommy shop" in connection with the railway belonged to that village, and, when the

contractor became bankrupt, he closed his shop and went home. A considerable number of the navvies went over to interview him, and, because he refused to supply goods on credit, a riot was the result. Before the people of Lauder could rest in security, it required the presence of a troop of dragoons, who were summoned from Jock's Lodge, Edinburgh.

1848      The desire expressed in 1836 to the Municipal Commission by the inhabitants produced no result. In 1848 a movement was inaugurated by the town's people, and a meeting was called for the purpose of forming the town into a police burgh, under the Act passed during the reign of William IV., entitled "An Act to enable burghs in Scotland to establish a general system of police." The meeting was composed of those within the barony and residing within 1000 yards of its limits who paid a yearly rent of £10. During the proceedings a considerable amount of opposition to the proposal was manifested. Dr McDougall made a strong statement regarding the continued prevalence of fever and the necessity for the town being put into a better sanitary condition. A vote was taken, when it was found that ninety voted for the adoption of the Act in its entirety, and twenty-six for the clauses relating to cleaning and lighting only. The opposition mustered thirty-eight votes against the adoption of the Act, and twenty-six of them voted against the clauses regarding paving, lighting, and water. At a meeting held shortly afterwards to choose Commissioners, the following were elected,—John Sibbald and Henry Ballantyne, manufacturers; William Rutherford, writer; John Haldane, brewer; William Wood, skinner; Robert Haldane, banker; Robert Hall, builder; John Milne, baker; John Govan, merchant; and Dr Weir.

In the meantime, however, the opposition had taken steps to test the legality of the proceedings, and on the 20th July, 1849 Lord Ivory pronounced the following interlocutor,—

"The Lord Ordinary having heard counsel for the parties in this process of reduction, as well as in a separate process of suspension and interdict at the instance of the same parties, and considered the closed records in both with







the relative writings produced, and whole cause, conjoins the processes; finds that the Statute 3 & 4, William IV., Cap. 46 and 10 & 11 Vic. Cap. 39, do not, for the purpose of these Statutes, authorise the extending of the boundaries of any burgh of barony, such as that of Galashiels here in dispute, beyond the limits of the county within which the said burgh of barony is itself situated, and that none of the provisions or machinery of the said Statutes are applicable to the case, when the original burgh and any part of the extended limits to be thereto attached by the force of the Statutes happens to be in different counties, and are subject to the jurisdiction of different sheriffs. Therefore, to this extent and effect, sustains the reason of reduction and suspension."

This decision was appealed against, but the First Division of the Court of Session supported the decree of the Lord Ordinary on the same ground, but refused expenses, for the reason that the success of the action frustrated the substantial intention of the Act.

1850 Again, in 1850, an attempt was made to bring the town into a healthier condition. A meeting was held in the Bridge Inn assembly room for the purpose of taking advantage of a Police Improvement Act, which Parliament had recently passed. Owing to the death of William Hastie, the Baron Bailie, which had occurred the previous year, James Stalker, his successor, occupied the chair. After discussion, William Rutherford, writer, moved the adoption of the whole Act, with the exception of the clause relating to water, which was supported by Hugh Lees, writer. The meeting appointed a committee to take the necessary steps in order to bring the proposal to a successful issue. On the 16th November following a meeting was held of householders or male occupiers of dwelling-houses or other heritable property to the value of £10, for the purpose of electing Commissioners to carry into effect the provisions of the Police Act which had been adopted. Sheriff Somerville presided, and, after various names had been proposed, he declared that William Sanderson, wood merchant; John Sibbald, manufacturer; Adam Paterson, wood merchant; Robert Sanderson, manufacturer; John Cochrane, manufacturer; Robert Hall, builder; William Wood, skinner; William Rutherford, writer; and Henry Monteith, manufacturer, were duly elected Commissioners of





Police. At their first meeting William Rutherford was elected senior Magistrate, and William Sanderson and John Sibbald, junior Magistrates. Hugh Lees, writer, was elected Clerk to the Commissioners, and John Pringle, writer, was appointed Collector and Treasurer. James M'Bain, Edinburgh, was appointed superintendent of police, and arrangements were at once entered into for cleaning and lighting the town, which, it was agreed, should be watched night and day. It was resolved that the police force should consist of a superintendent and three constables. The superintendent's salary was fixed at £75 per annum, the constables receiving twelve shillings per week, with the usual clothing. The superintendent was also appointed Fiscal and Inspector of Nuisances at an additional salary of £5. Energetic measures were taken to clean the burgh, a plan of which was prepared by Mr Mitchell, C.E., Perth. The Salmon Inn ball-room was secured for a court room and for holding the Commissioners' meetings. The rate of assessment was fixed at one shilling per pound, the number of inhabitants at this time being 5918, consisting of 2911 males and 3007 females.

It would appear that the energy with which the Commissioners entered into their various duties had in a year or two  
 1853 considerably cooled down, as, in 1853, great dissatisfaction existed in regard to the manner in which the Act was being carried out, the editor of the *Border Advertiser* breaking out in the following strain,—

“Wanted, for the Burgh of Galashiels, one or two dashing doctors, a few good business-like undertakers, and several acres of virgin land as a cholera burial-ground. Application to be made to the Commissioners of Police, Galashiels.

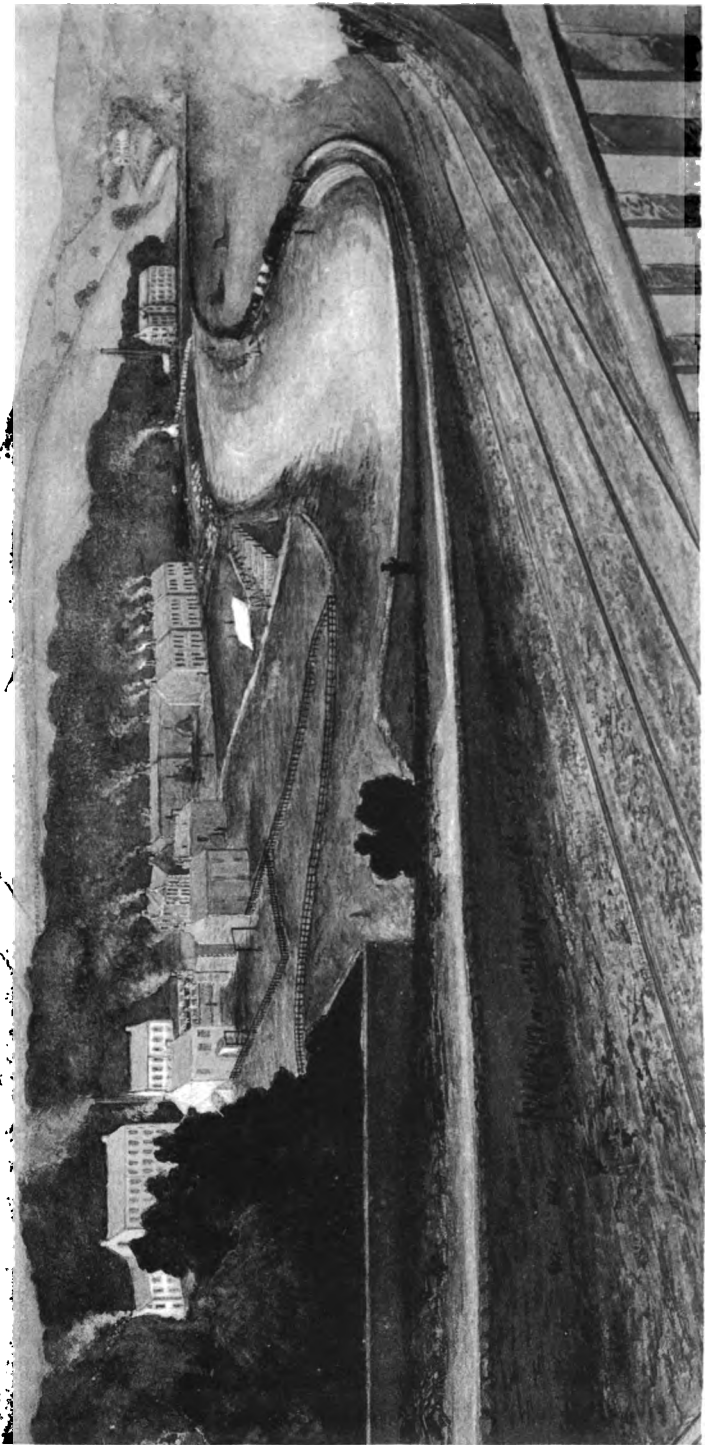
Impassable streets, greasy footpaths, and reeking middens are yet to be the glories of our town. A rank luxuriance of filth is to surround us for another year, the cholera year.

‘Night,  
 Even the zenith of her dark domain  
 Is sunshine, to the colour of our fate.’

Wonderfully economical Commissioners we have; manhood labour is too expensive for street cleaning, so we have old men and mere youths on the footpaths and roadways, progressing at a snail's gallop, an inch an hour. On our lamp ladders impish children, scarce old enough to feed themselves, are bobbing their heads through lamp glasses, instead of cleaning them, and endangering their little lives in the attempt to straddle from one rung of the ladder to another, in their passing from the solid earth to the lamp top's giddy height. Cleanliness, thorough-going cleanliness in this cholera year above all years; and if the Police Commissioners are not prepared to enforce this upon their servants, their responsibility to the town will be of a most heavy character."

- So much for the cleaning; the watching also appeared to have been conducted in the same cheese-paring spirit. The police were now receiving fourteen shillings per week, and this amount was in the opinion of some of the Commissioners unjustifiable extravagance, and a futile attempt was made to reduce the staff to one constable and the superintendent.
- 1855 The agitation, however, was kept up, and in 1855 the staff was reduced to two constables and the superintendent, their hours of duty being thus appointed,—the superintendent from 6 A.M. to 2 P.M.; Constable Gordon from 2 P.M. to 1 A.M.; and Constable Lees from 8 P.M. to 6 A.M.
- 1856 In 1856 William Rutherford, Chief Magistrate, retired, having served two terms of office, and John Cochrane, manufacturer, was appointed Senior Magistrate.

At this time the town received a visit from Kossuth, the Hungarian patriot. In order to allow opportunity for a fitting demonstration, the public works were closed for part of the day. Floral arches were erected at the Railway Station and the top of Bridge Street, while the route of the procession was decorated with flags. On the arrival of the distinguished visitor, a procession was formed, and, headed by the town's band, M. and Mme. Kossuth were escorted to the Commercial Hotel, where they were presented with a plaid and shawl subscribed for by the general community. The plaid was manufactured by Robert Frier, and the shawl, a Macdonald tartan, by George Lees & Co.







In the evening Kossuth delivered a lecture in the East United Presbyterian Church, which had been granted for the occasion. The building was crowded, and the proceeds, which amounted to £50 after expenses had been paid, were remitted to the lecturer.

The necessity for a suitable hall had now begun to be severely felt, there being no room in the town capable of containing more than 300 people. During the winter months lectures and concerts were of weekly occurrence. Artistes like Toole, Sam Cowell, and others famous in their day, visited the town occasionally, but only a small proportion of those desirous of  
1857 being present could find accommodation. In 1857 the question of a public hall was mooted, and a committee was appointed to look out for a suitable site.

1858 In 1858 great excitement prevailed in the town in connection with the proposed railway between Hawick and Carlisle. The North British Railway Company proposed to carry their line by way of Liddesdale, while the Caledonian Railway Company considered that their scheme *via* Langholm was preferable. Plashett's coal at 9s 4d per ton was the bait that influenced the manufacturers in Galashiels to strongly support the claims of the North British Company, but the coals have not yet arrived.

The town was now rapidly extending,—the old landmarks of the once rural village had passed away, the cherished haunts of the boyhood of the older inhabitants were no longer to be seen, the spirit of change was over all. The once crystal stream was polluted, the finny tribe had disappeared, the Brig pool, the Rocks, the Cauld back were no more their favourite haunts. Darling's, and other haughs, once green and gowan-clad, were covered with houses, the face of nature was entirely changed; at one time a local rhymer states,—

“ Frae Tweed to Kilnknowe the whin and broom,  
Clad haugh an' howe wi' their gowden bloom;  
An' the sparkling stream that never ran toom,  
Made a picture o' the bonnie banks o' Gala.”

The old manners and customs in the growing town were undergoing a revolution, principally owing to the influx of strangers; and the kindly clannish feelings that used to prevail were fast disappearing.

Previous to the passing of the Vaccination Act, the utility of inoculation as a palliative against the ravages of small-pox was fully appreciated in the town. It was customary for half a dozen mothers with their babies to meet by appointment for the purpose of "getting the bairn's arm dune" by some "skeely body," who performed the operation with the point of a needle. The matter was procured from the arm of some healthy child, with whose genealogy and parentage each one was familiar.

Weddings were great events which broke the monotony of daily life, and attracted a considerable amount of attention, the neighbours watching with great interest the arrival of the gaily-attired guests, linked arm in arm. All the children in the district, supplemented on the occasion by a large contingent from other parts of the town, congregated in front of the house in which the ceremony was about to be celebrated. The departure of the minister was the signal for them to commence making as much noise as their throats were capable of emitting, which only ceased when the "best man" appeared at the door and scattered a few handfuls of copper coins among the crowd. In a moment it became a seething mass of boys and girls tumbling and sprawling over each other, all striving with might and main to pick up as large a share of the coins as possible.

When disease laid its fell hand upon any member of the community, many kindly enquiries were made by the neighbours regarding the condition of the patient. When the dreaded event took place, it was customary to send funeral invitations to friends and relatives at a distance, while some kindly neighbour went round the immediate vicinity, calling at each door and giving what was termed a general bidding. Shortly before the appointed hour for "lifting," the grave-digger made his appearance, carrying two handspokes and a bag containing the mortcloth. The coffin was soon brought out, and, after

the handspokes were adjusted, the mortcloth was spread over it. With the chief mourner at the head of the coffin, the procession moved slowly off, while, at frequent intervals, friends relieved each other in the progress to the kirkyard.

Modern progress has also given the death-blow to the old Border sports, which had been maintained in the town for generations. Shinty and the old style of football have disappeared, and since the ground on Hollybush farm was enclosed and cultivated, the ancient game of handball has also been numbered with the things that were. These and similar pastimes were at one time associated with all that was free and hearty in the out-door sports of the town. Once certain names decided the respective sides, latterly the married played against the single, while occasionally the different parishes strove for superiority. At these great events the inhabitants turned out in crowds to witness the contest and cheer on their respective champions.

## CHAPTER XVIII.

1859 **T**HE Burns centenary occurred in 1859. It was enthusiastically observed in the town, a half-holiday being enjoyed on the occasion. A public dinner was held in the Abbotsford Arms Hotel, at which upwards of fifty were present, the chair being occupied by Dr McDougall. Another company dined in the Salmon Inn; while a third, numbering 170, met in the Bridge Inn. The temperance party held a soiree and concert in Union Street Chapel. The Freemasons dined in the Commercial Hotel, while other parties were accommodated in the Victoria and Railway Hotels.

On the 30th July, 1859, the Galashiels games were inaugurated in honour of the birthday of the Master of Gala. They proved a great success; the assemblage, the largest ever seen in the town, was estimated at ten thousand.

At the annual election of Commissioners of Police, John Cochrane, Chief Magistrate, retired, and George Bathgate, manufacturer, was elected to the vacant office.

The negotiations for a site for the proposed public hall had been going on, prospects were held out of securing one in the Market Place, and it was proposed to remove the school to a free site to be granted by Major Scott of Gala at Wilderhaugh. Owing to some unfortunate misunderstanding between Mr Scott and the committee, the offer of the free site in Market Place was withdrawn. However, after years of agitation and discussion, the question was solved by James Sime, manufacturer, who gave the committee a site on the south side of the High Street, belonging to Botany Mill feu. The property on the line of the street was acquired for £370, which, on being removed, formed the entrance. The hall was erected by Messrs Herbertson & Son at an estimated cost of £2368. At the same

time, after long delay, the erection of the Corn Exchange was intrusted to Messrs Stirling, builders. On the 12th September, 1860, one of the greatest demonstrations ever witnessed in the town took place on the occasion of laying the foundation stones of these buildings. Originally it was intended that they should both be under one roof, but this arrangement was departed from. The day was all that could be desired for an out-door display, and, about half-past one, a procession was formed, consisting of,—the Gala Forest Rifles, Dyers' Corporation, Manufacturers' Corporation, Commissioners of Police, Magistrates, directors of the Public Hall and Corn Exchange Companies, deputations from seventeen lodges of Freemasons, in order of seniority; Galashiels Brass Band, Grand Lodge of Scotland, J. Whyte Melville, M.W.D.G.M. The line of procession was crowded with spectators, while flags were profusely displayed along the route. After arriving at the building, the Rev. Robert Blair, chaplain to the local Freemason lodge, offered prayer, and thereafter a leaden box was inserted in a cavity prepared for it in the foundation stone, containing the current coins, with a narrative regarding the building engrossed on vellum, newspapers of that date, &c. The stone was laid with all the ceremonies observed on such occasions, the proceedings being concluded by the band playing the National Anthem. The procession was then re-formed and marched to the Corn Exchange by way of High Street, Channel Street, and Market Square. The same order was observed as had been used at the hall, but this time prayer was offered by the Rev. Dr Arnot, the grand chaplain. The Freemasons afterwards proceeded to their lodge-room; and a public dinner was held within the Exchange, which concluded the proceedings. When the building was erected, William Gill, of the Waverley public-house, offered to provide a clock to the value of £100 to be erected on the building and put under the charge of the Commissioners of Police, provided they paid him interest amounting to 4 per cent. during his life-time and that of his wife should she survive him. This offer was accepted, the Corn

Exchange Company agreeing to pay half the interest, and the Commissioners undertook to erect and maintain the clock, which cost about £77. The Commissioners also agreed to procure a clock and bell to be placed on the Public Hall, to which the directors consented. In this case the agreement was "that the clock and bell shall be the property of the Commissioners, under their exclusive management and control, upheld at their expense and removable at their pleasure." The clock and bell cost £200. When the hall was completed, it was arranged between the Commissioners and directors that accommodation for a court-room, &c., should be provided at an annual rental of £21. The hall was formally opened by a concert, given by Mr Howard and party from the Operetta House, Edinburgh, at which a grand piano, presented by Mr Broadwood of London, was used for the first time.

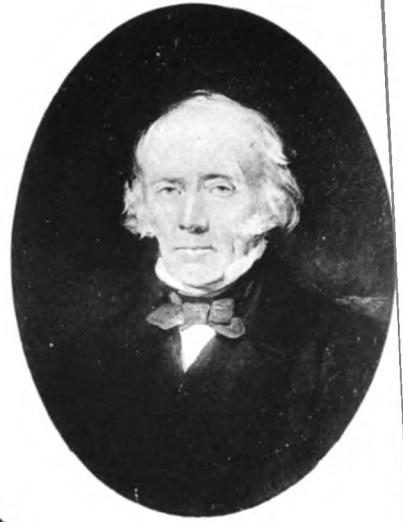
At this time a museum was established, William Kemp being curator. Its rules set forth that "the Society shall be called the Galashiels Scientific and Antiquarian Society." The annual contribution from ordinary members was 4s, and donors of £2 were elected life members. The collection found house-room in Bridge Street in premises belonging to Mr Kemp, where a goodly store of interesting articles of various kinds was soon on view; the charge for admission being threepence. The museum existed till 1867, when, owing to the want of interest shown by the public, it was resolved to wind up the Society. The various articles were returned to the donors, if desired, the remainder being sold, and the proceeds handed over to the Mechanics' Institute.

1861 In 1861 occurred the death of Prince Albert, in connection with which the Commissioners of Police sent the following address of condolence,—

"To the Queen's most Gracious Majesty.

May it please your Majesty,

We, your Majesty's loyal subjects, the Magistrates and Commissioners of the burgh of Galashiels, desire to express to your Majesty our profound sympathy and sincere grief for the great loss your Majesty has



**WILLIAM RUTHERFORD**

**GEORGE BATHGATE**

**GEORGE CRAIG**

**JOHN COCHRANE**

**WILLIAM HALDANE**





sustained in the death of your late Consort, His Royal Highness Prince Albert.

The unexpected calamity which has befallen your Majesty, the Royal family, and the nation at large, is most truly deplored by us in common with our fellow-subjects, and we individually participate in your affliction on the present trying occasion.

That the Supreme Ruler of the universe may be pleased to grant unto your Majesty even in this affliction, the consolation of His Holy Spirit, and may long spare you to reign in the hearts of a loyal and affectionate people, is the earnest and sincere prayer of your Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the Magistrates and Commissioners of Galashiels.

Signed and sealed by authority and in name of the Magistrates of said Burgh, this 26th day of December, 1861.

GEORGE BATHGATE,  
*Chief Magistrate."*

1862 In 1862 the Commissioners requested Mr Jardine, of Edinburgh, to make a survey of the town for a drainage scheme. He reported that

"The proposed sewer started at the confluence of the mill lade with the Gala, and was continued alongside the stream till it arrived at Victoria Mill. From thence it diverged, and was carried up Channel Street and High Street to the head of Island Street. This main sewer was to be four feet high and two feet three inches wide, built with stones, having brick and lime for the bottom. A pipe eighteen inches in diameter was to be laid from Island Street to Tweed Mill, to where the lade crossed under the Peebles road. At this point a sluice was to be erected for flushing the drain. Stirling Street was to have a separate pipe to a point in the main sewer near Victoria Mill. From Buckholmside a large branch pipe was to be led into Buckholmside Mill lade, while from the High town there was to be a tile drain into the main sewer; the estimated cost of the work being £8648."

The Commissioners accepted at this time an offer from Major Scott of Gala to convey his right regarding the Market Square to the town on the following conditions,—

- "I. That on market days the whole square be available for market purposes.
- II. If temporary erections shall be allowed at any time by the Magistrates, such shall be kept eight feet back from the west side of the ground opposite the Free Church, and at least six feet from the sewers on the sides of the square. No such erections to be allowed longer than six days at one time.
- III. That the income be expended in keeping the square in good order."

1863 In 1863 the question of a new water supply was raised, and the wells in the town were analysed, a considerable proportion being found to be more or less polluted. A committee was appointed to make investigation. They reported upon Caddon, Whitlaw Burn, and Cauldshiels Loch, and application was made to the several proprietors regarding terms, etc. Mr Pringle of Torwoodlee was the only one prepared to negotiate, and he expressed his willingness to allow water to be taken from the Caddon. Previous to going further a-field, it was agreed to obtain a report from Mr Leslie, C.E., Edinburgh, regarding the quantity of water that could be collected in the neighbourhood of the existing water-works, and Mr Milne of Faldonside was applied to for liberty to make an inspection of Cauldshiels Loch, to see what supply could be procured without lowering the natural level, but it was ascertained that this source was not available.

1864 In 1864 the burgh boundaries were extended so as to include every house in the town and immediate district, except Apple-treeleaves and Netherdale Cottages.

In the interim, the agitation for a new water supply had been kept up. Meetings were held and statistics produced showing that the death rate had risen from 16·37 per thousand in 1861 to 21·88 in 1864. This increased mortality, it was alleged, was due to the polluted state of the public wells. Investigation had been made, and, in the case of three bakers who used the wells, it was found that one had a pigsty and dunghill within twenty feet of the well, a second had two cesspools within twenty-six feet, and the third had a pigsty thirty-five feet from his well, besides two dunghills forty-two feet distant.

1865 At length, in 1865, the water clauses of the Police Act were adopted by the Commissioners, and, upon a poll being taken, sixty-seven supported their action, one hundred and ten opposed it, and seventy-eight remained neutral.

George Bathgate, Chief Magistrate, retired at the annual election, and William Haldane, brewer, was appointed in his place.

At the foot of Overhaugh Street, a little below the Corn Exchange, stood an erection known as "Sandy's Well." This well occupied a position within a very short distance of the sewer, having, latterly, a wall built round three sides, and covered with a sloping roof. It was credited with being the best water in the town, and had been long used. Its origin is unknown, but in 1826 Sir Walter Scott makes a reference to it in his diary, having at that date been engaged in settling some dispute regarding it.

1867 On the threatened approach of cholera in 1867, another investigation was made into the state of the wells in the town, many of which were totally unfit for domestic use. Again the Commissioners resolved to adopt the water clauses of the Police Act. A remonstrance, bearing fifty-seven signatures and representing property valued at £923, was laid before the Chief Magistrate, and a poll demanded. Upon this being done, ninety voted in favour, and one hundred and twenty-four against the action of the Commissioners.

Queen Victoria visited the Borders in 1867, when she became the guest of the Duke of Roxburghe at Floors Castle. On the 22nd August she visited Melrose and Abbotsford, her description of the journey being recorded as follows,—

"A number of people from Galashiels, and even from the North of England, had come to the town and swelled the crowd. Many also had spread themselves along the outskirts. We took the other side of the valley returning, and saw Galashiels, very prettily situated, a flourishing town, famous for its tweeds and shawls. The men are called 'The braw lads of Gala Water.'"

1868 In 1868 another attempt was made to introduce a water supply, but on this occasion it was found that a majority of the Commissioners were opposed to the idea, and nothing further was done in the matter.

Consequent on Galashiels being included in the newly-formed Parliamentary constituency termed the Hawick Burghs, all the Magistrates and Commissioners resigned at the annual election,

and fifteen Town Councillors were elected, who, at their first meeting, chose John Hall, builder, to be Provost. An effort was made to have the town divided into wards, but, owing to the population being at that date under 10,000, this could not be accomplished.

1869 The water question was again raised in 1869, and the Local Authority employed Mr Leslie, C.E., Edinburgh, to survey the district, and report on the best means of obtaining a domestic supply, capable of affording forty gallons per day for a population of 20,000. An analysis of Caddon and Lugate was made, and it was found that they were equally suitable. The flow also was gauged, and although the season had been an exceptionally dry one, Caddon provided the requisite supply, while Lugate yielded fully a half more. A probable cost for bringing a supply from Caddon was seen to be too expensive, and the plans were modified to thirty gallons per day for a population of 15,000. To provide an eight inch pipe with filter and reservoir, not including a compensation pond, required £19,000. On the scheme being submitted to the ratepayers, 666 voted against it, 334 in its favour, and 629 gave no reply.

Owing to the scarcity of water in the Buckholmside district, the inhabitants of that locality held a meeting for the purpose of considering the best means of acquiring a local scheme. Ladhope Burn had a flow of 14,000 gallons per day, and from this source it was expected that a supply might be obtained at the rate of sixpence per pound upon the rental of the district. However, it was discovered that, before providing for compensation, the value of the land required for a reservoir, etc, the rate would require to be one shilling and sixpence. Eventually a supply was obtained from Buckholm Burn, a reservoir being built upon the side of Buckholm Hill.

At the next meeting of the Local Authority held after the poll had been taken regarding the introduction of water, Provost Hall stated that those in favour of water were entitled to include all those who had refrained from voting, on the ground that these persons were willing to leave the matter in the

hands of the Local Authority. He concluded by moving that the inquiry as to the cost and compensation should still be prosecuted. Eight voted for the motion, while seven supported an amendment that nothing further should be done in the matter.

1870 At the next election, in 1870, the inhabitants returned a majority of Councillors pledged to oppose the introduction of water, and the question, for the time being, fell into abeyance.

## CHAPTER XIX.

**T**HE centenary of the birth of Sir Walter Scott, for whom the people of Galashiels had cherished kindly memories on account of his personal influence being always used 1871 to further their social and industrial interest, occurred in 1871. It was, therefore, but fitting that, of all places in Scotland, such an event should be enthusiastically observed in Galashiels. The result took every one by surprise, as never in the history of the town had there been witnessed such a hearty and successful effort to pay respect to the memory of any man. The committee entrusted with the arrangements did not attempt to carry out anything grand or superlative. Their idea was to unite the largest possible number of the community in some simple way, so that they might endeavour to realize that the influence of the great man was still with them. Accordingly, it was arranged that there should be a great gathering in Gala Park, and the efforts of the committee to effect this purpose were heartily seconded by the Provost and Town Council. When the day arrived, the weather was beautiful. A general holiday was observed from nine o'clock, at which hour all the works in the town were closed. The streets were gay with flags and banners, triumphal arches were erected at various points; one in particular at Botany Mill, formed largely of coloured yarns, was the observed of all observers. The procession was composed of the Volunteers, Freemasons, Good Templars, tradesmen, employers and operatives. None hung back, but all appeared to be animated with one spirit. It started from the west end of the town, headed by the Good Templar saxhorn band, which was followed by the members of the firm and operatives from Buckholm Mill; Wheatlands Mill came next, then Tweed Mill and Tweed Place Mill followed in their order. Gala-bank Mill carried flags woven for the occasion, composed of

Sir Walter Scott, Rob Roy, and Meg Merrilies tartans; and also the flag belonging to the Weavers' Corporation. Wilderbank operatives came next, followed by the men employed in the Buckholmside Skinworks, then the workers from Comelybank Mill, who wore sashes of the Scott tartan. The united building trades followed, and the operatives from Rosebank and Botany Mills. Then came the Burns Club, Freemasons, and the Good Templar lodges, comprising the "Gala Water," "Alexander Combat," "Pride of the Border," "Anchor of Hope," and "Snowdrop;" the Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council bringing up the rear. These comprised the west-end portion of the procession, and from the east end the town's band was followed by the members of the firm and employees from Netherdale Mill. On the way they were joined by the operatives from Abbot's Mill, Gala Mill, and Huddersfield Mill. The engineers from the Waverley Iron Works came next, carrying their models and trade emblems, and were followed by the workers from Nether Mill, Gas Works, and Mid Mill. When the Burgh Buildings were reached, the Volunteers, under Captain Cochrane, took their place at the head of the procession, preceded by the band of the 93rd regiment, which had been granted for the occasion. They continued the march up Bank Street, and returned to the Market Place by Overhaugh Street, where they were joined by the employers and workers from Victoria Mill, who wore sashes of the Victoria tartan. The Tailors' Corporation and the plumbers and gas-fitters now fell into the ranks, the rear being brought up by the general public. The march was continued down Paton Street, Huddersfield Street, and Croft Street, returning by the Abbotsford Road and Church Street, Elm Row, Lawyer's Brae, Bank Street, High Street, Island Street, Union Street, and Roxburgh Street to Gala Park by the Windy Knowe Road. By the time the rear of the east-end section of the procession had left the Market Place, the contingent from the west end had arrived and continued their march, the two sections being now united in one body. When the van halted in Gala Park



at a spot near to where the Burgh School now stands, the rear of the procession was still in Bank Street, it being computed that not fewer than 3,400 persons took part in it. In the park a platform had been erected, where the Provost, Magistrates and Town Council, along with the honorary secretary, James Smail, banker; and William Forsyth, Cobden Hotel, Glasgow, took up their position. As soon as the rear of the procession had reached the platform, the proceedings were commenced by the Choral Union giving "Hail to the Chief;" after which the Provost introduced Mr Forsyth, who delivered an eloquent address appropriate to the occasion, which was listened to with rapt attention. At the conclusion, Councillor Adam Thomson proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Forsyth for the brilliant tribute he had paid to the memory of Sir Walter Scott, which, he said, he had all the more pleasure in doing as Mr Forsyth was a townsman, who, though his presence was no longer with them, took a warm and hearty interest in all that pertained to Galashiels. This closed the more formal part of the proceedings, and the various bands thereafter played dance music alternately, the younger portion of the gathering footing it on the green sward under the umbrageous foliage of the ancestral oaks. Athletic games were also indulged in, and others found pleasure in watching the brilliant spectacle with its motion and colouring, upwards of 7000 people being present. In the evening there was a great gathering in the Public Hall, at which Provost Hall presided, the speakers being G. O. Trevelyan, M.P. for the Border Burghs, and Henry Inglis of Torsonce.

1872      The water supply question again occupied public attention in 1872. There were then twenty-two public and 117 private wells. Of these 112 were found to be good and twenty-three bad; ninety-five were regular in the supply, forty irregular, and four were dry; while thirty families were supplied by the existing water supply.

1873      In the following year Mr Leslie presented a report containing the result of his investigation into the various available sources of supply. The first was from Lugate, and the second

from Caddon; both by gravitation. The third was a pumping scheme from Torwoodlee Haugh, a fourth from the haugh on Caddon below Clovenfords; while a fifth was from the Tweed at Boldside, also by pumping. The cost of the Caddon scheme was estimated at £32,400; Lugate, £42,150; Torwoodlee Haugh, pumping by water power, £21,800; by steam power, £32,400, including maintenance capitalised. Pumping scheme by steam power from Clovenfords, £35,100; and from Tweed at Boldside, also by steam power, £41,500. It was discovered that the supply from Torwoodlee Haugh was insufficient, and the idea was abandoned. A poll was again taken between the the Caddon and Lugate schemes, when 239 voted for Lugate, 244 for Caddon, and 986 against both.

In consequence of the firm with which Provost Hall was connected securing the contract for erecting the Public Library, he resigned his position in the Town Council, and Councillor William Laidlaw, of the firm of Laidlaw & Fairgrieve, yarn-spinners, was elected to fill the office of Provost.

During the course of the year the following letter was received by the Town Clerk, and laid before a meeting of Local Authority:—

“BOARD OF SUPERVISION, EDINBURGH, 14th Nov., 1873.

SIR,—I am directed by the Board of Supervision to inform the Local Authority of Galashiels that the Board cannot incur the responsibility in permitting any further delay in providing a proper supply of wholesome water for the domestic use of the inhabitants, and to intimate that, if at the end of one month from this date, the Local Authority have not taken the necessary steps for the introduction of water, it will be the duty of the Board to adopt such legal procedure as the statute authorises in order to compel them to do so. The Board would regret the necessity of such a step on their part, but they are apprehensive that they have already shown too much forbearance in this matter.

I am also to point out that this is not a question which can be disposed of by the votes of the majority of ratepayers, but it is a statutory duty which the Local Authority are bound to discharge.

JOHN S. SKELTON, *Secy.*

ROBERT STEWART, Esq.,  
*Clerk to the Police Commissioners of Galashiels.*”

At the next meeting it was carried by the casting vote of the chairman "that the Local Authority proceed to fix on a scheme and prepare a bill to Parliament for a water supply." As no notice had been taken of the letter from the Board of Supervision, another communication was received in 1874 threatening an action at law if their instructions were not at once attended to. It was agreed to appoint a committee to report on the best available source and cheapest method of bringing water into the burgh, but as none of the Local Authority would consent to act on this committee, nothing further was done in the matter. A public meeting was held at which it was moved "That the ratepayers support the Local Authority," but, on a show of hands being taken, only twenty-five were held up in support of the proposal. Shortly afterwards, Dr Littlejohn, Edinburgh, was sent by the Board of Supervision to take samples of the water used for domestic purposes.

At this juncture a prospectus was issued by a company calling itself "The Galashiels Water Company," who offered to introduce a supply of water from Lugate. A rival company also started, who intended to utilise the Caddon. The Galashiels Water Company proposed to raise a capital of £30,000 in 6000 shares of £5 each. The scheme was intended to provide forty gallons per day for a population of 15,000, and the maximum rate was not to exceed 1s 3d per £ on the rental. Shops separate from dwelling-houses were to be assessed at 3d per £, and for trade purposes it was proposed to charge 6d per thousand gallons, none to be assessed but those using the water. In consequence of the action of these private companies, another ballot was taken on the question, the result being that 220 voted for the introduction of water, while 416 were opposed to it.

Public feeling ran high on the question, and at the next election the candidates in favour of the introduction of water were at the bottom of the poll. In these circumstances the Board of Supervision raised an action in the Court of Session, and this at once brought the Local Authority to a sense of their duty. They now requested the Board to stay proceedings for twelve months,

pledging themselves in that time to prepare a suitable water scheme. The bill of the "Galashiels Water Company" was withdrawn, and a plebiscite was taken on the question, whether to introduce the water under a private bill or the Public Health Act. It was decided by 467 votes against 158 to proceed under a private Act.

1875 In consequence of the police receiving instructions to extinguish the gas lamps of the burgh in 1875, they resigned in a body, rather than perform this duty. At that time the force consisted of a superintendent, sergeant, and six constables. Before their places were filled up, a month had elapsed. As an effect of this affair, the force was reported inefficient, and the Government grant, amounting to £300, was withheld. On representations being made to the Home Office, the case was reconsidered, and the grant was paid.

Provost Laidlaw retired in 1875, and Ex-Provost John Hall having offered himself as a candidate for the Town Council, was returned at the top of the poll, and elected Provost for the second time.

1876 In the month of November, 1876, the contract for the construction of the water-works was intrusted to James Young, of Roslin; and in January, 1877, the ceremony of cutting the first sod was performed by Mrs Hall. A dinner took place in the Public Hall in honour of the occasion, and was attended by about seventy gentlemen. The water was brought into the town in 1879, at a total cost of about £52,000, there being no public demonstration to celebrate the event.

For a considerable time the meetings of the Town Council had degenerated into mere squabbling amongst the members, which provoked the ridicule of all who took any interest in municipal affairs. The transaction of business appeared to be the last thing that some of the Councillors thought about. The gratification of personal animosity, fault-finding with those who did the work, and petty carping on

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every opportunity were the order of the day. This ultimately became unendurable, and self-respecting members of the Council preferred to absent themselves from the meetings or to retire altogether rather than submit to the annoyance and abuse to which they were subjected. The singularity of this state of matters was that those who were mainly responsible for denouncing and obstructing measures tending to benefit the community posed as the friends of progress and reform in all directions. The public at length grew tired of their tactics, and took the earliest opportunity to relegate them to the position from which they ought never to have emerged.

In 1876 the Galashiels Municipal Extension Act received the Royal assent, when a re-arrangement of the duties of the various officials was rendered necessary. Robert Stewart was re-elected Town Clerk, the Superintendent of Police was relieved from the duties of Inspector of Works and Cleaning, the offices of Collector and Treasurer were abolished, and a Chamberlain appointed. A Master of Works was engaged, whose duties comprised Surveyor of Roads and Streets, Water Works Manager, Surveyor of Works, Inspector of Cleaning, and Sanitary Inspector. In 1893, the Chief Constable was appointed to this latter office. The town was now divided into five wards, the number of electors entitled to vote in Parliamentary elections being 1538. There were altogether 1859 voters, the remaining 321 were females and those only qualified to vote in Municipal elections, on account of residing beyond the Burgh boundaries.

When the railway between Edinburgh and Galashiels was formed, the road to Melrose was intersected by a level-crossing, situated a short distance above the station. For many years this had been a constant source of annoyance and danger to all requiring to cross the line, and on one occasion a fatal accident occurred. A public meeting was held, and a committee was appointed to request the Railway Company to erect a bridge over the railway in place of the objectionable crossing. The Company undertook to make the alteration at an esti-

mated cost of £4,000, provided the town became good for any outside damage. On the 7th October, 1878, the new bridge was formally taken over by the Corporation and declared open for traffic. The probable cost was considerably exceeded, as it cost the Railway Company £5,000. The total outlay falling upon the ratepayers amounted to about £100, which was required for the purchase of ground for the approaches.

## CHAPTER XX.

**A**T one time Melrose Lammas Fair was the most extensive market for lambs in the south of Scotland, and was held on the western slope of Eildon Hills, near to where the Asylum is now erected. For days previous to the sale, the roads in every direction were occupied with flocks on their way to the hill, upon which, the night before the fair, as many as 100,000 lambs might have been seen, attended by the shepherds and their watchful collies. Owing to the introduction of sales by auction, the market was gradually transferred to the sale rings at St Boswells, and in 1879 it finally ceased to exist.

For a long period Lammas Fair had been one of the great events of the year, where old acquaintances were wont to meet, and, "ower a bottle o' yill," the days o' langsyne were recalled, and old friendships renewed amongst those who had been "auld neebors," but whose opportunities for meeting and spending a holiday together did not often occur.

The Fair was held about the 12th of August. All the factories in Galashiels closed at mid-day, and, early in the afternoon, hundreds of young people of both sexes were to be seen wending their way to the great centre of attraction. Long before the Eildons were reached, the ear was greeted with a perfect babel of sounds. Shows of every description were there, each one rejoicing in a band of some sort, in which the big drum generally predominated. At intervals, the glib-tongued showmen harangued the gaping crowd, earnestly advising them not to loose the opportunity of inspecting some fat lady, living skeleton, dwarf, or other freak of nature.

Judging from the discordant sounds that met the ear at every turn, it appeared as if nearly all the strolling musicians in Scotland were present. Fiddlers, blind and otherwise, organ-grinders, bagpipers, clarionet players, and performers on the

tin whistle abounded. Hat in hand, and, in many cases, minus the normal quantity of arms or legs, leather-lunged ballad-singers, with stentorian voices heard high above the surrounding din, chanted "Flora Macdonald," or "The gallant Forty-two man" with a vigour and persistence that at least deserved, if it did not always command, success.

Here also were to be seen those philanthropists who apparently dropped half sovereigns into purses, and sold them for half-a-crown, the disappointed dupes perhaps finding only a few coppers. Nimble-fingered adepts at the wheel-of-fortune, three-card trick, thimbles and pea, and prick the garter, busily plied their calling wherever they could escape the watchful eye of the police, who were usually in force on the ground. The tinkers also had a busy time, cantering to and fro on their sorry hacks on the chance of a "swap," or possibly attracting the notice of some purchaser.

Along one side of the Fair ground stood a long row of tents, furnished with tables and forms, each one having its owner's name hung out in front, which were generally filled with noisy worshippers of Bacchus. Occasionally some stalwart shepherd, who had imbibed not wisely but too well, might be seen with staff in one hand and plaid in the other, performing a horn-pipe with a vigour that a dancing Dervish might have envied, his blushing sweetheart vainly endeavouring to prevail upon him to behave himself.

On the other side were the "krames," loaded with confections of every sort, the attendant owners, with practised tongues, cajoling the lads as they passed to and fro with their charmers hanging on their arms. Rapidly the gingerbread was transferred to the bags or handkerchiefs of the fair ones by their admirers, who in return had the honour of a "swagger" through the Fair. The popularity of the females could always be fairly gauged from the amount of spoil they carried from the field.

As the afternoon waned, those having some distance to travel made preparations for setting their faces homeward. Many a pugilistic encounter took place among the gallant swains



for the honour of escorting some rustic beauty, who, in many cases, stood quietly by awaiting the result, then gaily proceeded on her way in the company of the victor.

When the gloaming fell, fond couples were to be seen in every direction leaving the fast-decreasing crowd which still perambulated the ground, the female portion, of course, being anxious to secure some swain to accompany them home. It was not unusual for a gallant Galashiels weaver to offer his services as escort to some pretty face, finding to his dismay that, before he had accomplished his self-imposed task, he was well on for the head-waters of the Ettrick or Yarrow, Gala or Leader, ten or twelve miles from home, in the small hours of the following morning.

1881 In 1881 the movement in connection with the formation of the Public Park originated in consequence of the following letter being read at a meeting of the Corporation,—

“GALASHIELS, 14th September, 1881.

DEAR SIR,—The Galashiels Cricket Club being now in the course of providing a field for their own use, and having resigned the liberty and privilege they have hitherto had of using the cricket ground in the Eastlands, and the responsibility for and the care thereof, Mr Scott of Gala has it in his contemplation to offer to put that ground under the care of the Corporation to be used for similar purposes with those to which it is at present used, subject to such conditions as he shall specify. Before making any formal offer, however, he will be glad to know whether the Corporation will be willing to accept the control and the regulation of the ground, and the responsibility of keeping it in good order.

I shall feel obliged, therefore, if you will ascertain this and let me hear from you. I may add that Mr Scott proposes to make a slight alteration of the line of the north fence, which will improve the ground by making it more rectangular and adding a little to it.

I am, Yours faithfully,

PROVOST HALL.

JAMES STALKER.”

1882 The Corporation agreed to acquire the ground on Mr Scott's conditions, and in 1882 extra ground was added to the original portion. In order to provide means to fence and lay it out, a sum of £1286 was subscribed. Amongst the subscriptions

were one of £500, seven for £100 each, one £30, and smaller contributions made up the amount. The expenditure amounted to £1240, which left a balance in favour of the Park account of £46.

The need for a Public Park had become clamant; as the town extended, all the open spaces were built upon, where formerly the children found a play ground. As a striking instance of its growth, Gala Park furnishes a noteworthy example. At the time of the Scott centenary in 1871, this pleasant demesne was ornamented with trees, where cows had excellent pasture. When this portion of the estate was opened up, feus were quickly taken, and the first house was erected in 1875. So rapid was the progress, that in 1882 the new district boasted of a population of 3,000, all accommodated in good substantial houses. Nor were the erections confined to dwelling-houses, there being an Established, Free, and United Presbyterian Church, also the Public Library and the Volunteer, Masonic, and Good Templar Halls, beside the fine range of buildings occupied as the Burgh School, where, at that date, accommodation was provided for 900 children.

During the progress of the building operations in Gala Park in 1878, a discovery was made of an ancient cist, containing a human skeleton. It was unearthed in a knoll of no great height which was styled the "Aiken Knock," situated to the east of Roxburgh Place, upon what is now garden-ground. The cist was about a foot and a half below the surface, being composed of flat stones set on edge, and covered with a larger slab. A dark-coloured dust and a few bones were at first observed, and, on further investigation, a small human skeleton was disclosed, but no implements or relics of any kind were found.

1884      Great demonstrations were held all over the country in 1884 in support of the bill for the equalisation of the burgh and county franchise, and a contemporary newspaper thus describes the event in Galashiels,—

“A more captivating procession was never seen in the Border country, and for the variety of its component parts, the beauty and value of its devices, the richness of its flags and banners, the originality of the emblems, the novelty of many of the models of handicraft, and the shrewdness of the mottoes and expressions of opinion, have not been excelled on any similar occasion in any other part of the Kingdom.”

About 4,500 people took part in the procession, the town was gaily decorated for the occasion, and deputations were present from every town and village within twenty miles. The procession was formed on the unfeued ground in Gala Park, and, accompanied by nine bands, marched through the town to the Public Park, where two platforms had been erected for the various speakers.

1885 On the 17th January, 1885, a supper party of a unique kind met in the Public Hall. The company numbered 120, and consisted of two classes,—natives of the town over forty-five years of age, and incomers resident for the same period. Seated at two tables along the hall, and one across at the chairman's end of the room, there was something striking and venerable in the aspect of the company. It embraced all ranks and professions of the community. Three octogenarians were present, and two between seventy and eighty, thirty-two between sixty and seventy, forty between fifty and sixty, the remainder being over forty-five and under fifty. Selkirk, Earlston, Stow, Jedburgh, Walkerburn, and Hawick were represented. Adam Cochrane of Fernieknowe occupied the chair, and the croupiers were William Sime, manufacturer, and Thomas Kennedy, weaver. The average age of the company was fifty-five, and the united ages amounted to 6629 years.

1887 On June 21st, 1887, the Jubilee of Queen Victoria was celebrated in the town. In the evening a thanksgiving service was conducted in St Paul's Church by the ministers of the various denominations. The Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council walked in procession to the church, escorted by the burgh police. The Volunteers attended the service, accompanied



**PROVOST LAIDLAW**

**PROVOST HALL**

**PROVOST DICKSON**

**PROVOST BROWN**

**PROVOST DUN**



by their band, and the Boys' Brigades belonging to the Free and Parish Churches were also present.

On the summits of the hills bonfires had been prepared, and, as darkness approached, numbers were attracted to the top of Meikle Hill. The central peak of the Eildons was the first to show the ruddy glare, and soon no fewer than sixty fires could be counted. All round, on the Cheviots, the hills in Liddesdale and Teviotdale, the Pentlands and the Lammermoors, the signals could be discerned; while, from the nearer heights, rockets could be observed shooting up into the sky. To those conversant with Border history the sight vividly realized the scene in 1804, when the lighted beacons summoned the Borderers to arise in defence of their fatherland.

1888 In 1888 Provost Hall resigned, and Councillor Andrew Brown, of the firm of William Brown & Sons, was elected his successor. The following year the Provost was presented with a chain and badge of office, and, in 1890, the ladies belonging to the town presented him with suitable robes.

1890 The question of a bridge across the Gala near its junction with the Tweed arose in 1890. A sum of £320 had been subscribed to carry out this improvement, and the Corporation was approached to induce them to take up the work. They agreed to contribute £126 towards the cost of the undertaking and maintain the approaches to the bridge, subject to the condition imposed by the Gas Company, that the *solum* remain their property.

1891 In 1891 occurred a great flood in the Gala which destroyed a large amount of property along its banks. The wooden foot-bridges at Buckholm Mill, Comelybank Mill, and Abbots Mill were swept away, and the mason work at the new bridge at Galafoot was utterly destroyed, the Gala for the time breaking into what is said to have been its old course, across the Cellarer's Haugh, and joining the Tweed at Carrow-weel. Several railway bridges between Galashiels and Heriot were seriously damaged,

causing a stoppage of traffic by the Waverley route for some days. The water came on to the road at King Street, and made its way down Island Street and High Street, where it diverged into Sime Place and went into its proper channel by the end of the bridge. One man was drowned while engaged in dragging trees from the water, near the bridge over Gala at the junction of the Selkirk railway, his body being recovered at Newstead several days afterwards.

This year a much-needed improvement at the old churchyard was carried into effect, principally through the exertions of Provost Brown. The unsightly collection of stunted fir trees which occupied the unused ground at the east end of the place of burial was removed, and a wall and gateway erected. The old ruinous wall along the Abbotsford Road was taken down and rebuilt, and a line of shrubbery planted between the churchyard and the road.

With the exception of the burial-ground in Darling's Haugh, this churchyard was the only place of sepulchre in the town till 1840, and it contains nearly all the earlier ministers, lawyers, manufacturers, and others who founded Galashiels. There are but few ancient tombstones extant, the oldest being that in the aisle belonging to the Gala family, which records the virtues of Hugh Scott, the first of that name in the barony. The inscription is in Latin, of which the following is a translation:—

“Here lies an illustrious man, Captain Hugh Scott, Laird of Gallosheiles, famous for his valor, distinguished for singular piety and charity, who acted vigorously in propagating the reformed religion in England, until, at length, compelled by severe illness to return to his country with loss to the Church and state, (a dear wife, friends, and ten children of the best promise, surviving), the sixth week from his return he fell asleep most peacefully in Christ, 1st September, 1644. He lived blamelessly, and in this appointed tomb awaits the coming of the Lord.”

The next oldest memorial is a tablet built into the wall, also within the aisle, commemorating the memory of the Rev. Mark Duncan, minister of the parish in 1651; his epitaph is given elsewhere, but his place of burial is unknown. The oldest

decipherable stone in the churchyard measures about two feet high by fifteen inches wide, and bears the following inscription, surmounted by a thistle,—

HERE LYE THE  
BODIES OF ADA  
M . ADAM . ROB  
ERT . IANET.  
ISOBEL . AND  
IEAN YOUNGS.  
ANNO DOM  
1697

On the top of the stone is inscribed “Walter Young, dyed November 23, 1728, aged 18 years.” The back of the stone is also covered with rude sculpture, consisting of the usual emblems of mortality and other figures, which denotes that this stone marks the family burial-ground of Robert Young, one of the old “bedells” in connection with the Parish Church.

The following inscription appears on the tombstone of one who had followed the occupation of fuller, or “walker,” as they were then termed,—

HERE . LYES . AND  
REW . PATERSON . WAL  
KER . IN . GALASHIELS . WHO  
DIED . OCTOBR . 1712 . AGED  
70 YEARS. ISOBEL WILSON  
HIS . SPOUSE . AGED . 62  
GEORGE . PATERSON . AGED  
75 . HILLIN . HWNTER  
HIS SPOUSE AGED 63

Another small stone bears the following inscription,—

HERE LYS  
IOHN MABON  
WHO DIED ON THE 17 OF  
OCT IN THE YEAR OF GOD  
1704 AGED 75



On the back of this stone is a sculptured representation of two horse shoes with a hammer between them, evidently denoting that the occupant of the tomb had been a blacksmith.

Another stone, commemorating the memory of one of the Darlings of Appletreeleaves, bears,—

HERE . LYS . INTER  
ED . THE . BODY . OF . MR  
ANDREW DARLING PORTION  
ER . OF . APPLETREELEAVES  
AND . SOMETIME . MINISTER  
OF . STITCHILL . WHO . DIED  
THE 3 DAY OF AGWST AND  
YEAR . OF . GOD . 1735 . AGED  
86 YEARS. HERE ALSO LYS  
THE BODY OF AGNES INGLIS  
HIS . SPOUSE . WHO . DIED  
25 . DAY . OF . MARCH . 1721  
AGED 63 YEARS

This is apparently the burial-place of that divine mentioned in the history of the Parish Church, who is recorded as “having preached against the profane and superstitious custom of playing football on Fastrines even.”

It was customary to denote the trade or calling of the individual to whose memory the tombstone was erected by the carved representation of some article used in his business. A stone, dated 1739, erected over the grave of Robert Aimers, millwright, bears a representation of a cogged wheel. On another stone, dated 1759, to the memory of Adam Paterson, clothier, appear the shears used in the early days of the woollen trade for cropping the cloth. A third has a representation of a two-handed knife, such as is used by leather-dressers, the occupant of the tomb, in all probability, belonging to that handicraft.

A large stone, erected to the memory of the Parks of Foulshiels, bears,—

## SACRED

TO THE MEMORY OF

M U N G O P A R K,

The celebrated African Traveller,  
Who perished in the interior of Africa  
in 1805. Aged 35.

ALSO TO

ALICE ANDERSON,

His Wife, who died at Edinburgh  
in 1840. Aged 59.

ALSO

Their eldest Son,

MUNGO,

Assist. Surgeon, E.J.C.S.,  
Who died at Trinchinopoly, Madras,  
in 1823. Aged 23.

AND

THOMAS,

Their second Son,  
of the R.N., who died in Africa, 1827, aged 24.

When a grave was being dug in an unused portion of the churchyard, which was acquired about 1838, a stone cist, similar to that found in Gala Park in 1878, was unearthed at a depth of four feet from the surface. In this instance, an urn containing bones was found, but, unfortunately, was damaged by the sexton. The cist measured two and a half feet long and one foot eight inches wide. The urn was seven inches in diameter at the mouth, and was ornamented with zig-zag lines.

In addition to the old churchyard, the Eastlands Cemetery, and the burying-ground in connection with St Peter's Episcopal Church, the only other available place of burial in the town was that of Ladhope, which was acquired in 1840 by the trustees of Ladhope Chapel. In 1857 an addition was made to the west end, which was subsequently taken over by the Melrose Parochial Board.

An old place of burial exists between High Street and Bridge Street, immediately behind the East United Presbyterian Church. In some of the earlier feu-charters in connection with that locality the right of sepulchre is conveyed to the feuar. The place has been closed for many years, the last recorded interment being that of Robert Dickson, skinner. A ponderous

thru-stone covers the grave, the date being 13th July, 1819. At one time a tombstone is said to have existed, inscribed as follows,—“Here lies Hugh Darling, laird, owner, and proprietor of this haugh, died 1st April, 1717, aged 78 years.” Another, which commemorated the memory of a child, was formerly in existence, but has now disappeared. Hitherto, it had been considered that these interments included all that had taken place, but recent excavations for building purposes in the neighbourhood have revealed the presence of portions of tombstones, which, it may be presumed, were erected in the locality. One of these was in a fragmentary condition, such of the inscription as was decipherable being,—“Stoddart . . . late tenant in . . . his age . . .” A second stone, in fairly good condition bears, “James Riddell, died 30th November, 1804, aged 84 years. Alison Kyle, his wife, died . . . also two of their children, John and Elizabeth.” A third stone was brought to light, but the inscription was wanting. It was highly ornamented, having a rope moulding round it and the words *Memento Mori*, with the emblems of mortality sculptured upon the upper part of the stone.

The widening of Channel Street now commenced to take a practical shape, and, in 1891, several proprietors in the street presented the area of ground in front of their respective properties to the town. Others, however, requested such an amount of compensation as involved the Corporation in heavy legal expenses, and the prospects of having the work completed at a reasonable cost are, at the present, extremely remote.

1893 In 1893 a re-arrangement of the wards took place. This was rendered desirable in consequence of the growth of the town, especially in Gala Park district, causing too great a discrepancy in the number of voters in the various wards.

1894 In 1894 Provost Brown retired, and Councillor James Dickson, of the firm of Arthur Dickson & Co., was elected to the office.

Owing to the establishment of Parish Councils, the last meeting of the Parochial Board took place on the 8th February, 1895. At the close of the business, the chairman, Andrew H. Herbertson, stated that in 1841 the rental of the parish of Galashiels was £13,419, the amount of assessment raised at that time being £195. In 1895 the valuation had risen to £74,794, and the assessment for Poor Law purposes, education, &c., amounted to £6,880, the number of poor chargeable on the parish being 206, with ninety dependents.

1896 In 1896 the centenary of the death of Robert Burns was observed in the burgh by means of a public demonstration, under the auspices of the Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council. A procession marched through the town to the Public Park, where various speakers addressed the gathering. A choir of 150 voices rendered a selection of Burns' songs, and the proceedings terminated by the company singing "Auld Lang Syne." As the people were leaving the park, a collection was taken for the purpose of procuring a wreath to be laid on the grave of the poet, which was accompanied with a card bearing "With admiration, love, and gratitude, from the 'Braw, braw, lads.'"

In taking the census previous to 1851, no distinction was made between the inhabitants of the town and those who dwelt in the landward portion of the parishes in which it is situated. Consequently, so far as official figures are concerned, no record exists to show the growth of the population previous to the above date. On several occasions during the first half of the present century a census was taken by residents, but, owing to the enumeration being confined to that portion of the town within the parish of Galashiels, the results are of no practical value.

The earliest record of the number of inhabitants in the village dates from 1662, when the Parish Church was transferred from Boldside to Galashiels. At that time the population amounted to over 400, which furnished one of the reasons for the transference of the Church.

In 1831 the Rev. Nathaniel Paterson states in the new statistical account that there were 2209 inhabitants in the town, of whom 1079 belonged to the parish of Melrose; of these, 762 resided in Darling's Haugh, and 317 in Buckholmside.

In 1851 the figures relating to the population of the town and parish are given separately, the official record for the town being as follows,—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Totals.</i>	<i>No. of females in excess of males.</i>
1851	2911	3007	5918	96
1861	3079	3354	6433	275
1871	4953	5359	10,312	406
1881	7250	8080	15,330	830
1891	7997	9370	17,367	1373

The estimated population in 1896 was 18,136.

Such is the simple and uneventful record of the origin and progress of Galashiels since that time when its site was occupied by the rude "shiels" erected by the shepherds who tended the Royal flocks on the banks of the Gala.

Its history carries one back to the time when its owners, the Earls of Douglas, rivalled Royalty, when Ettrick Forest was a Royal hunting ground and the "Hunter's Ha'" sheltered Scotland's kings; the adjoining village being the abode of the retainers of the Hoppringles of "Galowayscheelis."

Since these far distant days that dimly loom through the mist of centuries, the spirit of change has been at work, and even the face of nature now wears a different aspect. The old village has disappeared, and fertile fields now environ the busy haunts of men, where once the wild deer roamed in the forest glades. Then, no sound awoke the echoes but the baying of the hounds or the joyous shouts of the hunters as they pursued their sylvan sport amid the tangled recesses of the merry greenwood. Like the baseless fabric of a vision, they have all vanished; their memory is forgotten, save for a few place-names which tradition affirms had their origin in connection with the sport and pastime of a bye-gone age.

## HISTORY OF GALASHIELS.

The stirring annals of the Borderland are silent regarding the part played by the forefathers of the hamlet in the rude life of Border feud and foray. Then the hands of the villagers were more accustomed to wield the tough Border spear than the more prosaic, if more useful, "lay and shuttle," so familiar to their successors.

No record remains to tell how they defended their home against hostile invasion, or, perchance, joined in the midnight raid, driving home in triumph the "nolt beasts" harried from their auld enemies of England.

The once obscure hamlet has become a town, the products of which are known over the civilised world. The primitive appliances of its early days have developed into well-appointed factories, where the men and women of to-day obtain the means of subsistence in return for their labour.

When Queen Victoria ascended the throne, the population of the town did not exceed one-sixth of what it is now, yet even this wonderful progress does not represent the whole facts of the case. For many years it has been the cause of expansion elsewhere. Its manufacturers and operatives have migrated to Selkirk, Walkerburn, Innerleithen, Peebles, and other towns where the woollen industry is carried on. Wherever the English language is spoken, its sons are to be found worthily maintaining the credit of their native town. Had Galashiels been favoured with such facilities for the erection of public works as exist in many localities, the population to-day might have been nearly doubled.

Hitherto the expansion of the woollen industry has been the strength of the town, but under modern conditions it may also prove its weakness. While trade flourished, the town extended by leaps and bounds. This extraordinary growth has now ceased, and whether it will ever again attain to its former vigour appears at the present time to be extremely doubtful. The conditions under which its staple trade was carried on are now altered, and in place of enjoying a practical monopoly in the production of tweeds, as was formerly the case, manufacturers

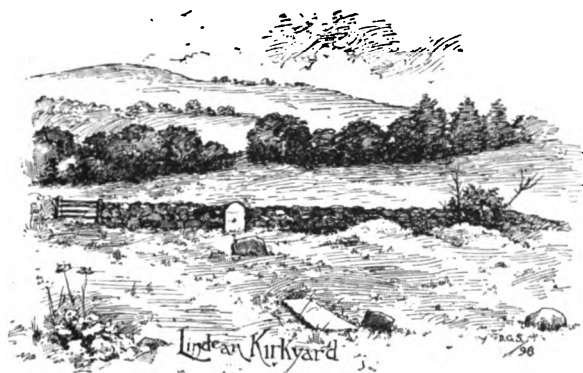
have to compete against the leading nations of the world, besides being heavily handicapped by hostile and prohibitive tariffs.

However discouraging the prospects of the town may be in the meantime, the energy of its manufacturers is not yet exhausted, and, with the capital and appliances at their command, seconded by the skill and hearty co-operation of their employees, they would prove themselves degenerate sons of worthy sires should they fail to maintain the pre-eminence of Galashiels as a manufacturing centre against all comers. Upon this combination depends the future of the town, the history of which, even in its palmy days, has not been a record of unalloyed success. Seasons of gloom and depression have been experienced, and at intervals pinching poverty has been no stranger in the community, yet, on the whole, prosperity has largely predominated. While the poor are always present, that squalid poverty and wretchedness, misery and crime, so prevalent elsewhere, are scarcely known. Amid all the fluctuations of trade that have occurred since Galashiels became the principal seat of the tweed trade in Scotland, its inhabitants have enjoyed a large measure of prosperity and comfort, and, compared with the lot of many of their fellow-men under similar conditions, have had ample reason to acknowledge that their lines have fallen in pleasant places.

SECTION II.—ECCLESIASTICAL.







## CHAPTER I.

### GALASHIELS PARISH CHURCH.

**W**HILE the name Galashiels offers no difficulty to etymologists, the early history of the parish to which it has been applied for two hundred and seventy-four years is involved in obscurity. Owing to the want of uniformity in spelling, the parish has been known as Lyndon, Lynden, Lyndein, Lindin, Lindene, Lindein, Linden, &c. The name is derived from the British *Lyn*, signifying a river pool, and the Anglo-Saxon *Dene*, a valley. Under one or other of the above names, the parish had been known for at least three hundred and fifty years.

The Kirk of Lindean belonged to the Abbey of Kelso, which was founded by David I. in 1128, on the removal thereto of the monks who had been settled at Selkirk in 1113. Kelso was situated in the Diocese of Glasgow, but had a dispensation exempting its abbot from all Episcopal jurisdiction; the monks could take their ordination and other sacraments from any Bishop in Scotland, and also from Cumberland. Whether Lindean Kirk was erected during the time the monks were at Selkirk or Kelso is unknown, but in all probability it was built after the transference took place. The parish was what was called a vicarage. The monks had the right to the teinds, and employed a vicar to discharge the duties.

Before the Reformation, parishes were erected for purely ecclesiastical purposes, and had none of the obligations which

are now attached to what are known as civil or *quoad omnia* parishes, the jurisdiction both in erecting and uniting these early parishes being exercised by the Church.

Unfortunately, through the loss of records, the origin of many of the older parishes, amongst which must be classed Lindean, cannot now be traced. It is entered under the name of  
 1275 Lyndon in Baiamund's roll, which was made up in 1275, by order of the Pope, for the purpose of collecting the tenth of the ecclesiastical benefices in Scotland for the relief of the Holy Land, the amount in which it was found liable being £4. In the *Libellus Taxationum* the rectory was valued at £13, 6s 8d, and in the Books of Assignations, 1574-1579, and the Book of Assumptions, 1577, the vicarage was rated at £40.

1353 In 1353 Sir William Douglas, who was designated "the Flower of Chivalry," was assassinated while hunting in Ettrick Forest, by his godson, Sir William Douglas, the first Earl of that name, at a place called Galsewood or Galvord. Various reasons are given for the perpetration of the deed. According to Lord Hailes, it was in revenge for the cruel murder of Alexander Ramsay of Dalhousie, whom Sir William starved to death in Hermitage Castle. Another reason is stated by Hume of Godscroft, who records that

"The lord of Liddesdale, being at his pastime hunting in Attrick Forest, is beset by William, Earl of Douglas, and such as hie had ordained for that purpose, and there assailed, wounded and slain besides Galsewood, in the year 1353, upon a jealousie that the Earl had conceived of him with his lady, as the report goeth, for so says the old song,

'The Countess of Douglass out of her boure she came,  
 And loudly there that she did call;  
 It is for the Lord of Liddesdale,  
 That I let all these tears downfall.'

The song, he continues, also declareth how shee did write her love letters to Liddesdale to dissuade him from that hunting. It tells likewise the manner of the taking his men, and his own killing at Galsewood, and how he was carried the first night to Lindin Kirk, a mile from Selkirk, and was buried within the Abbacie of Melrosse."

## HISTORY OF GALASHIELS.

The murdered knight was extolled as

“Terrible and feare-full in arms; meek, milde, and gentle in peace;  
scourge of England and sure buckler and wall of Scotland, whom neither  
success could make slack, nor prosperous slouthful.”

1502      The next mention of Lyndene occurs in 1502, when Ro  
Lofthouse was, on his own confession, convicted of conceal  
“paise pennies” (Easter offerings) to the value of ten mer  
For this offence he was sentenced to be banished furth of Sc  
land, and had to remove within forty days, under pain  
“tinsal of his life.”

1567      In 1567 the Kirk of Lindean was entered in the rental  
the abbacie of Kelso, along with the town and mill, wh  
yielded respectively £16 and £2, 13s 6d. From the kirk v  
drawn in kind ten chalders one boll of victual in the followi  
proportions,—From the lands of Cauldschiells, four bol  
Fadounsyde, fourteen bolls; Heyndoun Toun (?) with the main  
three chalders; Mosilie and Blyndlie, seven bolls; the B  
Hauch, six bolls two firlots; Ferinylie and Calfschaw, thirte  
bolls two firlots; Gallowscheillis and Boytsyde, three chalder  
and Langreynk, one chalder four bolls.

1586      In 1586 Lindean Kirk was abandoned. For years it ha  
been crumbling with age and decay. The decrease of populati  
in the district had made it less central, and its days as a pla  
of worship had drawn to a close. For centuries, monks ar  
curates, ministers and people had spent their hours of publ  
devotion under its humble roof. All have gone. The old rui  
only remains, haunted by the shadowy memories of the dim an  
distant past.

“In the green bosom of the sunny hills,  
Far from the weary round of human ills,  
Where silence sleepeth.  
Where nothing breaks the still and charmed hours,  
Save whispering mountain stream that 'neath the flowers  
For ever creepeth.”

When the Kirk of Lindean fell into decay, it appears that  
for some years afterwards no public place of worship existed

1591 in the parish. In 1591 William Ker, the vicar, with the elders and deacons, approached the Privy Council with a petition for the erection of a new church. In this application it is stated that

"They and the maist of the parrochinaris of the said parrochin having convenit thameselffis at command of his Majesties utheris letters for ordour-taking anent the reperioun of the said Kirk, it was found be commoun consent that the place quhair the said Kirk was of auld situat was very incommodious for the maist parte of the sadis parrochinaris, in respect that the watter of Tuede seperat the said Kirk frome the maist populus part of the said parrochin; and thairfor it was condecendit unto that the said Kirk suld be transported furth of the said place quhair it presentlie standis, and ane new Kirk biggit apoun the north syde of Tuede at the west end of the toun of Boldsyde, and to be beildit of the quantitie following, viz.:—Of lx fuitis of length, and the side walls thereof to be saxtine fuitis of heicht, and the gavallis efferring thairto, and to be namit in all tyme heirefter, the Kirk of Lindene, as it was namit of befoir, with this provisoun, that the transporting of the said Kirk suld nather alter the name thairof, nor yet be hurtfull nor prejudiciall to the vicarage, glebe, landis and mans pertaining thairto, with the pertinentis appointit for the service at the said Kirk, and the auld buriall place to remain quhair it is presentlie. And for repairing thairof thae have ordanit ane sufficient dyke to be biggit aboute the same; and als it wes concludit and condiscendit unto that ane coble suld be made upoun the expensis of the hail parrochin to bring ouer the deid to the buriall place, and to be biggit and halden up perpetuallie be the haill parrochinaris as ane commoun-weel; for quhilk purpois thae have willinglie condiscendit to ane taxation to be collectit amangis thame. And, swa, now all things ar in reddines tending to the perfyteing and accomplissing of this werk, and thair restis nathing bot his Hienes autoritie to be interponit to thair proceedings in this mater."

No opposition having been offered by the parishioners to this proposal, the Lords ordained that the said work

"Be ended, perfyted and accomplissed according to the conclusion and ordour sett down be the speciall and chief personis of the said parrochin."

The exact date of the erection of the kirk at Boldside is not known; but, doubtless, the above deliverance had been carried into effect without delay. The kirk is shown on Blaeu's map of 1608, and, notwithstanding the proviso that the name of Lindean was to remain for all time coming, it is stated in the Presbytery

records in 1612, that "John Dun of Brigheugh and Andro Shortreed were ordered to satisfy the Kirk of Boilsyde for leading corn upon the Sabbath day."

Like Lindean, the spelling of Boldside has varied considerably, viz.,—Boylside, Boilsyde, Boldsyd, Boldsidd, Boldsyid, Bowside, Bollside, Bolside, &c. The name is derived from the Cymric *ffol*, the open side.

In Chalmers' *Caledonia* it is asserted that Boldside was at one time a separate parish, and this statement has been repeated by Fullarton and Jeffrey, in the *Gazetteer of Scotland* and the *History of Roxburghshire* respectively. This is apparently a mistake, as the lands on both sides of the Tweed, including Boldside, were comprised within the parish of Lindean, and after the Reformation a reader was appointed to that church only. It is also evident that the foregoing extract from the Privy Council records regarding the change of site has entirely escaped the notice of the above writers on the subject.

In the introduction to the *Monastery*, Sir Walter Scott thus refers to Boldside,—

"On the opposite bank of the Tweed might be seen the remains of ancient enclosures, surrounded by sycamores and ash trees of considerable size. These had once formed the crofts or arable ground of a village. The cottages, even the church which once existed there, have sunk into vestiges hardly to be traced without visiting the spot, the inhabitants having gradually withdrawn to the more prosperous town of Galashiels, which has risen into consideration, within two miles of the neighbourhood. Superstitious eld, however, has tenanted the groves with ærial beings, to supply the want of the mortal tenants who have deserted it. The ruined and abandoned churchyard of Boldside has been long believed to have been haunted by the fairies; and the deep broad current of the Tweed wheeling in moonlight round the foot of the steep bank, with the number of trees originally planted for shelter round the fields of the cottagers, but now presenting the effect of scattered and detached groves, fills up the idea which one would, in imagination, form a scene that Oberon and Queen Mab would delight to revel in."

Without discussing the question further, Boldside may be left in the halo of romance with which the Great Magician has surrounded it.

In 1622 the name of the parish of Lindean was converted into Galashiels, and is thus described in a manuscript in the Advocate's Library, Edinburgh, dated 1656,—

“The Kirk is erected at ye toun of Gallowscheilds, ye Kirk of Lindene being now demolished, and ye old name of ye parish of Lindene converted into ye parish of Gallowscheilds. Shire Roxburgh, *alias* Teviotdale, Diocese of Glasgow, Presbytery of Selkirk, Commissariat of Peebles; Patron, Scott of Gallowscheilds.”

When the charter was granted in 1632 to James Scott of Gala conferring the right to the patronage of the Kirk of Lindean, the rights of the Earl of Roxburghe and the Sheriff of the Forest as titulars to the teinds, parsonage, and vicarage were expressly reserved. A dispute afterwards arose regarding the extent of the rights of the Roxburghe family, who had acquired much of the property which had belonged to the monks of Kelso. The question of the patronage arose in 1712, and was ultimately settled in favour of the Scotts of Gala, who exercised the right up to 1874, when patronage was abolished by Act of Parliament. The right to the teinds of Galashiels, although raised in 1712, was not decided till the 3rd November, 1749. The decision was in favour of the Duke of Roxburghe, who founded his claim on a Crown charter, of date 1607, and a charter of *Novodamus* in 1687. This title was preferred to that of Scott of Gala, who claimed that he had acquired the right to the teinds by the Act of 1690, as patron of the parish. Subsequently the Gala family acquired this right by a disposition granted by Robert, Duke of Roxburghe, as titular, dated 2nd March, 1752.

In the unprinted Acts of the General Assembly of the Kirk of Scotland in 1647, mention is made of a reference and Commission concerning the Kirk of Lyndean, and in the following year a recommendation was made to the Commission for the planting of kirks, to unite the adjoining lands of Sutherland, Sutherlandhall, &c., to Lindean, and form it into a distinct parish. At the same time it was recommended “to keep in the interim the Kirk of Galosheills,” but no further action appears to have been taken concerning the proposal.

In the article referring to the parish of Galashiels, written in 1833 by the Rev. Nathaniel Paterson for the *New Statistical Account*, he mentions "the united parish of Galashiels and Lindean." This is a mistake, there was no parish of Galashiels till 1622, and what took place at that time was only the substitution of that name in place of Lindean. Another local example of a change of name in consequence of a change of site is afforded in the case of St Mary of the Lowes. So long as that place of worship was situated on the margin of the Loch the old name remained, but a change of site converted it into the kirk and parish of Yharrow, Yara, now Yarrow.

The remains of the Kirk of Lindean are still extant, but in a sadly dilapidated condition. Within recent years the rubbish has been removed from the interior of the ruin, showing the walls to a height of three or four feet. On the outside they are level with the débris which has been allowed to accumulate. Internally the ruin measures fifty-seven feet by seventeen feet, the doorway being near the south-west corner. A large horizontal tombstone, measuring nearly eighty-one inches by forty-two inches, which was unearthed during the course of the operations, has been erected against the inside of the north wall. The stone has a shield in the centre, with the letters W. R. above it. On the left side can still be deciphered "To the happie memory of tua honorabil personis," and on the right "and his spous Kathrene Ker." A copy of the inscription, taken when the stone was in better preservation, shows it to have been erected before 1620 to the memory of Andrew Ker of Lintoun and his wife, probably relatives of William Ker, the first Protestant minister in the parish. It is supposed that the Lady Margaret Stewart, the second wife of John Knox, was buried here. She became the wife of Ker of Faldonside, who figured prominently in the murder of David Rizzio. The interment is merely a matter of conjecture, no direct evidence having been adduced.

The kirkyard appears to have been regarded as a convenient quarry for the district, as at the present day only three or four tombstones remain. About forty years ago some vandals muti-



lated and destroyed the gravestones very much, besides carrying away a third of the whole number standing at that time. One solitary thruch-stone remains to mark the spot where Thomas Elliot, tenant of Oakwood Miln, and his wife are laid, the oldest date on the stone being 1723. Through the efforts of the Rev. Dr Hunter, minister of Galashiels, there is every prospect of steps being taken to have the rubbish cleared away and means adopted to preserve what still remains of the venerable ruin.

## CHAPTER II.

**P**REVIOUS to the Reformation Scotland was observant of the Roman Catholic religion, but, coming under the influence of the Reformers, the effect was surprising. As if animated by some magical influence, the great mass of the people threw off all allegiance to the Pope, along with all their old methods of worship, and turned to the simple letter of Scripture, as interpreted by the reforming preachers. Indignant at being so long blinded by the priesthood, whose sloth and luxury in too many cases were notorious, the populace attacked the monasteries and churches, and overthrew the altars and images. Burning with a zeal ever to be regretted, they did not even spare the noble buildings. The Regent Mary de Guise, a devoted Catholic, strove in vain to stem the torrent. Obtaining troops from France, she maintained for a time a resistance against the Reformers, but they, on the other hand, received aid from England, and so the Reformation was accomplished. In 1560 the jurisdiction of the Pope was abolished, and those who persisted in celebrating the Mass were liable to very severe penalties. A new system was established, each parish had its minister elected by the people, or at least a reader to read the Scriptures and Common Prayers.

The great bulk of the wealth which had been at the disposal of the Roman Catholic priesthood fell into the hands of the Crown and nobility, consequently the Presbyterian clergymen were poorly supported, their incomes for the first forty years after the Reformation being wretchedly small and irregularly paid. In the pathetic words of a memorial which they presented to Queen Mary in 1562, "most of them led a beggar's life."

The proceedings of the General Assembly in 1576 reveal the fact that some of the ministers were compelled to eke out their miserable stipends by selling ale to their parishioners. The question was at that time formally put "Whether a minister or

reader may tap ale, beer, or wine, and keep ane open tavern?" to which it was answered, "Ane minister or reader that taps ale, beer, or wine, and keeps ane open tavern, should be exhorted by the Commissioners to keep decorum."

Such was the worldly position of a number of the ministers in Scotland at the time when the first Protestant minister was appointed to the vicarage of Lindean.

The usages of the Church in regard to the order of worship during the fifty years subsequent to the Reformation differ so materially from the modern form that a short description, as recorded in the Book of Common Order, may prove of interest.

"The bell having been rung an hour before, was rung the second time at eight o'clock for the reader's service. The congregation then assembled, and for a little engaged in private devotions. The reader then took his place at the lectern, read the common prayers, and in some churches, the decalogue and creed. He then gave out portions of the Psalter, the singing of which was concluded by the *Gloria Patria*, and next read chapters of Scripture from the old and new testaments, going through in order any book that was begun, as required by the first book of discipline. After an hour thus spent, the bell rang the third time, and the minister entered the pulpit and 'knelt for private devotion.' He then began with a 'conceived prayer' chiefly for 'illumination,' next preached the sermon and then read one of the prayers in the Liturgy for all conditions of men, concluding with the Lord's prayer and the creed, after this there followed a psalm and the benediction"

After the Reformation daily service was very general. In towns the Common Prayers, with portions of Scripture, were read, and even in country villages there was daily service. It was provided by a "guid and godlie statute," ordaining the people "To reparaie to thair paroch Kirkis, keep and observe the sermones on the Sabbath day, als weel efternone as afoirnone, and also the sermones on the vlk dayes, and not depairt thairfra unto the end theirowf."

The penalty for-breaking this statute was a fine of 13s 4d Scots for absence on Sundays of householders or their wives, and 3s 4d Scots for absence on week-days, and it was decreed that "Everie husband and maister of houshold sal be answerabill for his wyff incase of her absence fra the sermones and pay the vnlaw incurrit be hir theirowf."

William Ker, son of George Ker of Lintoun, the first Protestant minister of Lindean, was presented to the vicarage by James VI. on the 18th of August, 1569. In 1574 his stipend amounted to £3, 6s 8d sterling. There would also be payment in kind, else it is difficult to understand how he could live. He continued in Lindean for thirty years, during the latter portion of which there appears to have been a coadjutor minister in the person of William Hog. During his term of office the Kirk of Lindean had fallen into decay, and a new one was erected at Boldside. Troublous times arose during his ministry; the King was intent on imposing Episcopacy upon the country, and William Ker was deposed on the 11th of November, 1599, and ordered by the Presbytery to transfer the contract between him and William Hog to Patrick Urquhart, who succeeded him.

William Hog, A.M., was laureated by the University of Edinburgh on the 12th August, 1592, and was presented to the vicarage of Lindean by James VI. on the 11th November, 1596 1596. In the following year he appeared as a witness to a bond for £1000 by William Cairncroce of Colmisly, as surety for Mary Borthwick, life renter of the lands of "Gallow-scheillis," and Johnne Home, her spouse, not to harm her son, James Pringle of Smailholm. In 1601 Hog was translated to Ayton, and, in 1611, was presented by the King to the modified stipend of Ayton and Lamberton. On the 1st July, 1606, he, along with forty-five others, signed the protestation against the introduction of Episcopacy. In June, 1609, he was a witness in the trial for forfeiture for high treason against Logan, son of Robert Logan of Restalrig, who had been accessory to the Gowrie conspiracy, the following being a copy of his evidence on that occasion,—

"Mr William Hog, minister at Ayton, of the aige of xxx yeiris, or thairby mareit, deponis; that he knew weil the Laird of Rastelrig, and hes some of his writtis, and producit ane letter written by Rastelrig to the Laird of Ayton, all written with Restalrigs awin hand wryit. And having considerit the fyve writtis produceit be the Aduocat, declaris, that he thinkis thame lyklye to his wryittis, and that the samen appeiris to be verie lyk his wryitte, be the conformitie of letteris and spelling."

Mr Hog died in December, 1616, in his thirty-eighth year, and was succeeded by Patrick Urquhart, A.M., who was laureated in the University of Edinburgh on the 12th August, 1591. In 1593 he was presented to the charge of Langnewton, from  
1601 thence he was translated to Eckford in 1599, and in 1601 was removed to Lindean, continuing there till 1627. It was during his incumbency that the removal of the Parish Kirk from Boldside to Galashiels occurred. In 1617 a church was erected in Galashiels, and in 1622 the population of the western portion of the parish had increased to such an extent as warranted the transfer. The reporters to the Commission by which the change was effected gave the following reasons for the translation,—

“There lived above 400 pepill in Gallowscheilds, and so meikle the more as we (the ministers of the adjoining parishes) find ane house already there, weel built, comlie appareled, and, which, with small help, as is provided, may easily be made sufficient for the whole pepill in their most frequent assemblages.”

The same report also states that the old church of Lindean had been abandoned for the previous thirty-six years.

### CHAPTER III.

**T**HERE appears to have been a vacancy in Galashiels between 1627 and 1635, whether by reason of a disputed settlement or on account of the perpetual strife between Episcopacy and Presbyterianism, there is no record.

The next minister was James Urquhart, A.M. He obtained his degree at the University of Edinburgh on the 26th July, 1623. He was presented to Merton by Charles I. on the 20th 1635 May, 1632, and translated to Galashiels in 1635. On the 4th February, 1646, a supplication was presented to Parliament

"Be Mr James Urquhart, minister at Gallowscheillis, against James Scott of Gallowscheillis and John Pringill of Cockilferrie and some other persons as witnesses. Bearand that in the tyme of James Graham and his associatts, being in the south country, the said John Pringle sent the soume of ane thousand pundis, with his writtis in ane chist, to the hous of Buckholme, for securitie. And when the hous of Buckholme was assulted, the chist with the money and writtis was convoyed to Gallowscheillis, and came in the hands of Elizabeth Pringill, spous to the supplicant, who delyverit the samyne to John Pringill of Cockilferrie, her brother-in-law, to whom she knew the money and writtis belonged. And notwithstanding thereof, the said James Scott purchast ane warrant from the Comittee of estates for uplifting frae the supplicant the foirsaid soume, whilk he affirmed to be twenty five hundreth merkis. And thereupone he caused cite the supplicant, befor the Comittee of the schyre, who ordained the supplicant to be computable for the soume, and caused incarcerate him in the tolbooth of Selkirk, and confyned him within the toune thereof, for the space of eight weeks, tile he was forced to grant ane band to the said James Scott of Gallowscheillis, for payment to him of the said soume of 2500 merkis."

Pringill of Cockilferrie appeared and admitted having received the money from his sister-in-law, and on the 29th April, 1648, Parliament found the bond not due, and declared Mr Urquhart free. He was also in the unhappy position of owning

"Ane tenement of land lyand at the foote of the Cannongait of Edinburgh, occupied be Lawerance Grahame, James and Janet Scott, and others,"

From which they would neither remove nor pay rent. He again supplicated Parliament in order to obtain redress, and on account of being

"Ane poore minister not able to waite on, and waire out charges before the Lordis of Sessioun, and being necessitated to mortgage the said tenement for ane small soume for supplieing of his wyff and five childringis necessitie,"

On the 16th March, 1649, Parliament remitted his case to the Sheriff in respect that there was no sitting of Session. He died in 1650, aged about forty-seven. Considering the date of his death and the appointment of his successor, it appears that Mr Urquhart had either demitted his charge, or his successor had been his colleague for two years. Owing to the Presbytery records being incomplete at this date, no information is available from that source, but the following extracts from the doings of the Commission of the General Assembly may throw light on the matter,—

"EDINBURGH, 19th November, 1646.—Concerning the petition of Mr James Urquhart, the commission continues that mater till Tuesday come eight days."

"EDINBURGH, 2nd December, 1646.—Concerning the petition of Mr James Urquhart, this day presented, it is the opinion of the commission that he be continued under suspension tile the next quarterly meeting of the commission in Februar, and in the meantyme that the Presbyterie provyd an expectant to preach at his Kirk."

"EDINBURGH, 11th November, 1647.—Messrs Robert Knox, John Knox, James Guthrie, Thomas Wilkie, Andro Cant, Johne Smith, and Patrick Gillespie, with the Moderator, are desired to consider what cause shall be taken with Mr James Urquhart.

*Eodem die, post meredian.*

Concerning Mr James Urquhart, it is the opinion of the commission of Assembly that Mr James be continued under suspension in respect of his present infirmity both in bodie and mynd, and they recomend to the Presbyterie in the meantyme, to take some course for providing the Kirk with an actuall minister, in such a way as Mr James shall have still a competent part of the stipend."

On the 13th September, 1646, was fought the battle of Philiphaugh, when the Covenanting army, under General David Leslie, utterly routed the Royalist forces under the hitherto

invincible Earl of Montrose. At that time the chief families upon the Borders were on the side of the Covenant, but it appears from the following Acts of the Commission of Assembly that the Pringles of Blindlee and Buckholm were exceptions, and, if not actually in arms, were at least strong supporters of the Royalist cause,—

“EDINBURGH, 18<sup>th</sup> November, 1646.—This day Robert Pringill of Blindlee remitted to the Presbyterie of Selkirk to be exactly tryed and condignly censured for his compliance with the rebels, and they ar particularly desired to proceed against him with excommunication if they find no evidence of repentance and willingness to give full satisfaction according to the order prescribed, and that they report their diligence herein.”

“EDINBURGH, 19<sup>th</sup> November, 1646.—The Commission of Assemblie continues George Pringill in Buckholm to the next quarterly meeting in Februar, and in the meantyme the Presbyterie of Selkirk is to deal with him, to bring him to repentance for his joyning with the rebels, and to report their opinions concerning him the forsaid day, quhairof the said George personally present is warned. *Apud acta.*”

“EDINBURGH, 11<sup>th</sup> Februar, 1647.—This day George Pringill, sounne to James Pringill of Buckholme, compeiring personally, and giving in the declaration and confession of his offences subscribed by his hand, the commission remits him to the Presbyterie, to satisfie according to the Act of Assemblie, etc.; recommending to them to be carefull to bring him to some sense of his offences before his satisfaction be received.”

Judging from the subsequent career of the Pringills of Blindlee and Buckholm, it appears as if the action of the Presbytery had not been successful in keeping the families from being active opponents of the Covenant, the memory of their conduct being long preserved in the couplet,—

“Blainslie, Buckholm, and Blindlee,  
Persecutors a’ three.”

James Urquhart was succeeded by Mark Duncan, A.M., who obtained his degree at the University of Edinburgh. He  
1648 was admitted to Galashiels in 1648, and died on the 15<sup>th</sup> November, 1651, aged twenty-seven. A tablet is still to be



seen inserted in the wall of the aisle in the old church-yard, bearing an inscription in Latin and Greek, to the following effect,—

“Caledonia bruised, bewails the slaughter of her heroes.  
 The Church mourns the fall of her teachers.  
 Mark Duncan, pastor, whose virtues outnumbered his years,  
 Departed, not taken away by violence or by age.  
 To his church, his country, his widow and dear kindred  
 He says dying, I live, the victory is won.  
 ‘For whom God loves dies young.’  
 He died 15 Nov., A.D., 1651, in the 27th year of his age  
 and third of his ministry.”

The above allusion to Caledonia in all probability referred to the disastrous battle of Dunbar, in which the Scots were, in the previous year, so signally defeated by Cromwell. The quotation, “For whom God loves dies young,” appears to be what may be termed a christianised version of the pagan expression “Whom the gods love die young.”

After the death of Mark Duncan another vacancy extending to six years took place. The next incumbent was Thomas Lowes, A.M., who graduated at the University of Edinburgh in July, 1643, and was appointed minister of Galashiels in 1657. His lot was cast in unsettled times, he being deprived of his living in 1662. Mr Lowes was at this time a Presbyterian, and he was succeeded by Thomas Wilkie, A.M., who, it may be assumed, was an Episcopalian. Mr Wilkie appears to have been a landed proprietor, as he is represented as being in the receipt of an annual rent of 300 merks from the lands of Bewlie, etc. He took his degree at the University of Edinburgh on the 1665 14th July, 1659, and was presented to Galashiels in 1665. He was translated to North Leith in 1672, and on the 11th August, 1687, he was elected by the Town Council of Edinburgh to the collegiate charge of the Tolbooth Church. He was the only minister in the city not superseded at the Revolution by civil and ecclesiastical authority, and was appointed to Greyfriar's Church in January, 1691. On being requested afterwards to

waive his appointment, he replied that he would very readily obey the good town, provided his legal rights as one of the ministers of Edinburgh were not prejudged. The Council then offered him the meeting-house on the Castle Hill, which he declined, as it was not one of the legal churches of the city. He was translated to Lady Yester's Church, which he demitted on the 21st April, 1708, and died on the 7th January, 1715.

Mr Wilkie was succeeded by Hugh Scott, A.M., who acquired his degree at the University of Edinburgh on the 26th July, 1649. He was called to Bedrule on the 22nd November, 1657, and admitted in the month of March the following year. 1672 In 1672 he was minister at Oxnam, and was translated to Galashiels the same year. He was one of the "indulged" ministers, or one of those Presbyterian divines allowed by Government to remain in their charge, though the polity of the Church was Episcopalian. Mr Scott remained at Galashiels till 1689, when he was translated to Stow, where he died at the age of sixty. It is recorded concerning him that

"He was a good and holie man, faithfull and painfull in his calling, singularly pious and much in the search and knowledge of the Scriptures. As he lived holilie so he died happilie in the Lord."

It was during the ministry of Mr Scott that the existing Session records were commenced, which date from 1672. The following entry throws a considerable amount of light upon the social and domestic life of the village, and also on the duties performed by the Kirk Session in the olden time,—

"*February 23rd, 1673.*—Which day, Mr Hew Scott and the elders of the Church of Galashiels met.

Compeared Janet Wyllie, against William Wilson, tailor, in Galashiels, for calling her an ill-favoured witch, liar, and loun, in the audience of many witnesses, namely—Janet Rodger, Alexander Kirkwood, Hugh Clapperton, Walter Geddes, and Francis Brydon. The Session taking the same into consideration, appointed William Wilson to be summoned before them, and the aforesaid witnesses."

"*March 2nd, 1673.*—Which day, William Wilson being called, and posed anent the libel given against him by Janet Wyllie, he did flatly deny the same. The witnesses being summoned compearing, and William Wilson having nothing to object against any of them, they deponed as follows,—

Alexander Brydon deponed he heard William Wilson call Janet Wyllie a witch; Walter Geddes heard William Wilson call Janet Wyllie a witch and a loun; Hugh Clapperton did declare he heard William Wilson call Janet Wyllie a jade; Alexander Kirkwood did declare he heard William Wilson call Janet Wyllie a thief and a loun.

The Session finding the present process sufficiently proven, they appoint William Wilson to give satisfaction against the next Lord's day."

"*March 9th.*—Which day, William Wilson, tailor, in Galashiels, made public satisfaction for scandalising Janet Wyllie."

On the translation of Hew Scott to the parish of Stow, James Scott, A.M., succeeded to the vacant charge. Mr Scott obtained his degree at the University of Edinburgh on the 7th  
1689 April, 1675, and was appointed minister of Galashiels in 1689. Being an Episcopalian, he was deprived of his living in terms of the Act of Parliament on the 25th April, 1690. He died in Edinburgh on the 17th June, 1715, in the sixtieth year of his age.

Presbyterianism being again the religion of Scotland, Thomas Lowes, who was deprived of his living in 1662, was  
1690 restored to the parish of Galashiels on the 25th April, 1690. He does not seem to have been favourably received by his parishioners, who suspected him of leanings towards Popery. The feeling rose to such a pitch that the Presbytery were compelled to interfere, and a meeting was held in Galashiels on the 9th December, 1690, for the purpose of making inquiry regarding the differences between the people and their minister. This investigation probably had some influence on Mr Lowes' resignation, which took place on the 4th March, 1691. He was called to Innerleithen in 1696, admitted 30th March, 1697, and died in November, 1703.

The break-down of the power of King James in 1688 let loose the popular feeling against the Roman Catholics. It is recorded by Patrick Walker that on one occasion,

“A resolute band left Edinburgh, and making their way to Traquair House, laid hands upon a great quantity of Romish wares, but not all, as some had been carried off and secreted. Accordingly, a party were detailed to search the house of a neighbouring clergyman, who had the name of being a Presbyterian minister, one Mr Thomas Louis. Mr Louis and his wife mocked them without offering them either meat or drink, though they had much need of it. At length two trunks were discovered, one of them containing a golden cradle, with Mary and the babe in her bosom, the other being filled with priests' robes. The whole of the articles being brought together were carried to Peebles, and solemnly burnt at the cross.”

There is every reason to believe that Mr Lowes, formerly minister in Galashiels, was the individual referred to in the above narrative.

## CHAPTER IV.

**T**HE next minister, Hugh Craig, son of John Craig, merchant, burgess in Edinburgh, was of a very different stamp. Mr Craig studied in the University of Glasgow, and was called to Galashiels in October and ordained 15th 1692 December, 1692. He married Christania Galloway, and had a family of two sons and two daughters. One named Margaret became the wife of the Rev. Thomas Thomson, minister of Auchtermuchty, and was the grandmother of the great legal antiquary, Thomas Thomson, and also of the distinguished landscape painter, the Rev. John Thomson, minister of Duddingston. At the advent of Mr Craig, there were no elders in the parish. According to the Session records, it was in the month of March, 1693, "before ane eldership was established in the parochin." The elders elected were John Donaldson, Thomas Wilson, George Blaikie, James Scott, James Paterson, indwellers in Galashiels; John Mabon, in Hemphaugh; John Speeden, in Fairnelie; and William Haddon, in Lindean. They were exhorted by Mr Craig,—

"To be faithful and diligent in endeavouring in their stations to discourage sin and looseness, and encourage and excite the people in the visiting of them to be careful and constant in serving God alone and in their families."

In the month of September the same year, a further addition was made to the eldership, and "they did nominat" George Hall, bailie in Galashiels; Robert Wilson, younger, there; William Jamieson, in Lindean; George Scott, in Bolesyde; and David Speeden, in Blindlee.

The elders must have been fully occupied in looking after the morals and keeping a sharp lookout upon the walk and conversation of the parishioners. An instance of the strictness with which they looked after the doings of the villagers is

afforded in the case of Thomas Messer and his wife Janet. This couple were summoned before the elders to explain why they were walking in the fields in the time of divine service. They appeared and stated "that they were going to Boldsidd to see Janet's mother, who was sick." This, evidently, was not considered a sufficient reason, as they escaped a public rebuke by promising to be better observers of the Lord's Day in future.

The action of the Session appears at times to have been somewhat strict and unmerciful, as shown in the case of

"Isobel Paterson who having, by reason of sickness, been but three days in the place of public repentance, the officer is ordered to acquaint her that whenever she recovers health she return to the foresaid place."

The proper observance of the Sabbath was earnestly inculcated upon the people, any neglect of the recommendations of the Session being visited with sharp rebuke. This Robert Inglis, merchant in Galashiels, found, when not having the fear of the Session before his eyes, he was guilty of "the scandalous practice of opening his shop-door on the Lord's Day." When summoned to appear and answer for his conduct, he complied, and admitted having opened his shop-door on the Lord's Day, but pled in mitigation that he had only supplied some necessities for sick people. This line of defence did not deceive the Session, who had evidently made themselves familiar with the transaction, for they told him that they did not consider that snuff and tobacco came under the list of necessities for sick people. A private rebuke was administered, with the caution that if he should again be found guilty of a similar offence, he would require to make a public appearance.

However strictly the Session looked after the behaviour of the parishioners, they were no less faithful in their dealings with each other. It was customary for them to meet at intervals, and as each member retired in rotation inquiry was made by the minister regarding the walk and conversation of the absent brother. The office of elder in those days was no sinecure; their duties took a much wider range, and their meetings were more frequent and prolonged than is customary at the present

day. Notwithstanding all their care, it is very suggestive to find minuted that on certain days there had been no cases of discipline. These were of such frequent occurrence that an omission in the usual routine was considered worthy of being specially noted.

Long after the Reformation, the people were often found practising some traditional remnant of their former religion. They clung with peculiar tenacity to various superstitious practices, and repeated efforts were required to put them down. In 1645 the General Assembly of the Kirk of Scotland ordained

“That whatsoever person or persons, hereafter, shall be found guilty in keeping of the foresaid superstitious dayes, shall be proceeded against by Kirk censure, and shall make their public repentance therefor in the face of the congregation, where the offence is committed.”

Not only had a public appearance to be made by adults, but scholars and students found guilty of observing Yule or other Roman Catholic festivals were to be severely chastised. Masters found granting liberty of “vacance” on these days had to appear before the next General Assembly to be censured; and if the scholars refused to submit to correction, or became fugitives from discipline, it was ordained “that they be not received in any other schoole or colledge in the Kingdom.”

A case of this nature occurred in Galashiels, in which the Session were compelled to take notice of the conduct of one of their own number. This was Robert Wilson, who was charged with having “joyned in playing at the football upon Fastens-even.” His fault was aggravated by being committed after Andrew Darling, in Galashiels, “preached on the said day, and spoke particularly against that prophane and superstitious custom.” The culprit appeared before his brethren, confessed the charge, and expressed his grief at having given offence to honest people. In order to remove the scandal he was suspended from office for three months. Robert appears to have been a publican, as shortly afterwards he was again charged with

“Affording ale to some persons in his house to drink on the fast day, and he did bear them companie in the time of divine service.”

He again appeared, humbly confessing that

“He did bear companie on the fast day during divine service with strangers in his house, but it was sore against his will, being violently detained by them.”

The Session was scarcely credulous enough to be imposed upon by this explanation, and he was again suspended and sharply rebuked and admonished to walk more humbly and Christianly. Six months afterwards the suspension was removed; but Robert must have been a black sheep, as he was shortly afterward found guilty

“Of not carrying himself as becometh his station, having played at the wheel of fortune in the public mercat.”

This proved the last straw; his cup was now full, and, after serious and solemn deliberation, he was deposed from the eldership.

Another entry in the Session records shows the care exercised by the Session in making due provision for the regular attendance of the parishioners at divine service. It was as follows,—

“The Session ordered four pound Scots to be payed out of the poor’s money for the boatmen of Bolesyde, for the passage of those in the parrochin of Galashiels who live on the other side of Tweed, in their coming to the church and going from it.”

1695 In 1695 the necessity for a new bell had arisen, as at that date it is recorded that at a joint meeting of the Session and heritors it was agreed that

“Galashiels should be at the expenses, causing cast the kirk bell anew, it being then brocken, and upon its being founded, and castin again, and get up, each heritor was to repay the said Gala ilk ane their proportion of what shall be the charges in renewing the bell as foresaid.”



In those days collections were taken in the churches for purposes that sound strange to modern ears. At that time the Session received a receipt for the sum of eighteen pounds Scots, which was collected for the repair of Ancrum bridge. On another occasion they collected money for the purpose of building a bridge over the Elwand. In this case it was a house-to-house visitation, as the collectors reported that

"They had gone through the haill toun, and all they could get for helping to build ane brigg over Elwan, was fourteen pounds, six shillings Scots; six pounds whereof was given by Sir James Scott of Gala, and they had sent down to Mr Wilson, minister at Melrose, ten pounds thereof."

How they disposed of the balance is not recorded. On another occasion, the Session received a discharge for the sum of twelve pounds Scots which was collected on 29th December, 1700, for "Helping to ransom Mr Simpson and others, who were taken prisoners by the Algiers."

Again ten pounds Scots was collected at the church door for repairing the harbour of Haymouth, and another collection, amounting to four pounds Scots, was devoted to "repairing ane harbour at Banff."

No inconsiderable amount of the time of the Session was taken up in connection with fixing the duties and emoluments of the "beddel" and maintaining a suitable mortcloth. At this time they were under the necessity of sending to Holland for velvet to make a new one, the account for which was,—

	LIB.	S.	D.
<i>Imprimis</i> —for — ells of velvet, ... ..	80	0	0
<i>Item</i> —for five pounds and a half of silk at 12/3 per lb., for fringes, ... ..	69	06	0
<i>Item</i> —for tartan for a wallet and strings, ... ..	02	02	8
<i>Item</i> —for lyming thereto, ... ..	04	01	0
<i>Item</i> —for working of the fringes, ... ..	09	00	0
<i>Item</i> —for making the mortcloth and wallet, ... ..	04	00	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	168	09	8 Scots.

When the mortcloth was ready, the Session gave directions to take the best parts of the old one and apply them to the making of a small one for children. The charge for their use was for the large one eighteen shillings and two shillings Scots to the "beddel," and nine shillings with one shilling Scots to that official for the small one.

1701

In 1701 it was a common practice for a considerable section of the congregation to pass their time in the churchyard during service. The attention of the Session being called to this practice, they very promptly put an effectual stop to it by causing intimation to be made from the pulpit,—

"That except those persons come within the church doors they will be delated to the civil magistrate."

In 1702, before the Communion could be celebrated, the "beddel" was sent to Mr Rutherford, minister at "Yara," for the loan of the cups and tickets. The want of these necessary articles possibly arose from the custom that had formerly prevailed of the Episcopalian and Presbyterian ministers being in turn deposed and carrying off what they considered their belongings with them. In preparation for the ordinance, it was also directed that the elders procure "ane tent, seats and tables, Sir James Scott of Gala furnishing the bread and wine according to wont."

## CHAPTER V.

**T**HE first mention of Galashiels in the records of the Teind Office occurs in 1709. These records are only complete since 1700, owing to the loss they suffered during the time of Cromwell by being carried off to London. In re-transmission the vessel was wrecked, and a fire in 1700 destroyed the fresh records that had accumulated up to that date. The notice in question is an application to the Court of Teinds for a suitable stipend by the Rev. Hugh Craig. The application was granted, the decree being dated 5th January, 1709, but the proceedings afford no information regarding the early history of the parish. Mr Craig stated

“That he had been minister from 15th December, 1692, and had but a small allowance, not suitable for the circumstances of that post, and even some of what his predecessors were in use to get payment of was abstracted, and he had no Decreet of Modification or Locality to oblige those liable to make payment thereof, and it was very troublesome and expensive to be yearly pursuing before inferior courts.”

This seems to show that the minister had no official warrant for the collection of his stipend, and there is no indication that there ever had been one. The heritors at that time were James Scott of Gala, Robert Rutherford of Fairneylea, Gideon Rutherford of Rink, William Plummer of Middlestead, George Currer of Harperwoodburn, portioner of Lindean; Robert Ker of Prestoun, portioner of Lindean; James Cunningham of Hinds-hope, Thomas Wilkie, one of the ministers in Edinburgh, and George Wilkie, his son. The total rental as amended was £843, 18s 10<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>d (or as there stated, £10,127, 6s 8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d Scots.) The stipend awarded was 1200 merks, with 50 merks for Communion elements, equal to £833 6s 8d Scots, or £69 8s 10<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>d Sterling. Mr Craig remained minister of Galashiels for nineteen years, and died in 1711.

On the 18th April, 1711, Mungo Clarkson was licensed by the Presbytery of Edinburgh and presented to the living of Galashiels by the Duke of Roxburghe. This presentation was objected to by John Scott of Gala, who claimed this right, which he exercised in favour of George Hall, Chaplain to the Laird of Torsonce. Pending the settlement of the dispute, both candidates were withdrawn, and in 1714, Mr Clarkson received a call to Currie, in the Presbytery of Edinburgh.

The following is a copy of an old manuscript in the possession of Mr Scott of Gala, regarding the transfer of the Parish Church to Galashiels. It is dated 1714, and purports to be

“Information of two old indwellers in Galashiels, Hugh Darling and George Hadden, aged about 75 years, anent the practice of the ministers of this paroch, and grounds for fixing the Kirk at Galashiels.

They inform that they have heard old indwellers in this place frequently affirm that tho’ it be of verity that the minister exercised his office by preaching at the Kirk of Lindean before the Reformation (Galashiels being at that time less than Lindean), yet, upon the first beginning of the Reformation he came to officiat upon the forenoon at Lindean, and the afternoon at Boldside, the common passage on this side Tweed, and afterwards by degrees they came to officiat in ye forenoon at Boldside, and afternoon at Galashiels. And thereafter upon the considerable increase of the toun of Galashiels they preached the whole day at Galashiels in the Tolbooth for several years before the building of the church, and at last in the 1617 upon the further and further increase of the toun the Kirk was built at Galashiels, and the Kirk of the Lindean since that time has still gone to ruin and was never officiat in, the grounds and reasons for which are plainly as follows,—

- I.—It can easily be instructed by the examination rolls that all the persons on the other side Tweed will scarce amount to 300 examinable persons at farthest.
- II.—The toun of Galashiels is now very considerable by three yearly fairs and a weekly mercat, the customs whereof we have oft heard say were but fifty merks at most, and sometimes less, which yet now are set for more than four hundred merks.
- III.—We can get it instructed that Mr Craig, late minister here, had in his roll, 800 examinable persons within the toun of Galashiels.
- IV.—Beside all these there are betwixt two and three hundred examinable persons on this side Tweed beside the toun of Galashiels.

V.—As an evidence of the fewness of parochiners on the other side Tweed where Lindean stands, the boatman of Boldside receives only four shillings yearly for carrying all such as are on the other side Tweed to Galashiels Kirk.

VI.—Besides all which we are informed that ever since the Reformation certainly the minister's manse was always in the toun of Galashiels, it being also probable that it was there before, seeing we never heard any say there was an appearance of a manse at Lindean. Which thing being so plain and notour both in the time of prelacy and presbytery did overbalance against the family of Roxburgh and others there frequent strugglings; so that since the 1646 or thereby there has been no essay made to get it return to the Lindean.

All which being written at the direction of the above-named Hugh Darling, litster (dyer), in Galashiels, and Georg Haddon, merchant, there, are subscribed at Galashiels upon the 24th February, 1714, by us before these witnesses, Robert Darling, minister of the Gospel at Ewes, and John Donaldson, presently bailie at Galashiels.

(Signed) H. DARLING.

GEORG HADDEN.

That these presents were subscribed by Hugh Darling and Georg Haddon, indualers in Galasheils, befor me, John Donaldson, present bailze in Galasheils, day, yeir, and pleas foresaid, is atestid by

(Signed) JO. DONALDSON."

## CHAPTER VI.

**A**FTER the death of Mr Craig there was a vacancy for the following three years, and the next minister was the Rev. Henry Davidson, A.M.

Mr Davidson was born in the parish of Eckford in 1687, and took his degree in the University of Edinburgh on the 27th April, 1705, being licensed by the Presbytery of Jedburgh on the 15th March, 1712. He was presented to Galashiels with the unanimous consent of heritors, elders, and parishioners, and ordained 23rd February, 1714. Shortly after the advent of Mr Davidson, the church was found to be too small and the parishioners drew up and presented the following petition to the Laird of Gala,—

1716

"GALASHEILLS, *Dec. 20th*, 1716.

To the Honourable Sir JAMES SCOTT of Gala.

The humble representation of the inhabitants of the paroch of Galasheills sheweth,

That whereas we the commons of this paroch have for a long time laboured under great inconveniency by the Kirk's being too little for accomodating a paroch which is turned so numerous and no effectual methods have yet been faln upon to remove this grievance, tho severall overtures have been made particularly in our late minister, Mr Craig's, time, we have at last resolved to make application to you requesting you to take this circumstance under your serious consideration.

We need not put you in mind of the great numbers that are obliged to stand during the whole time of divine worship in the entrys, which is very uneasy to themselves, besides the difficulty thereby occasioned to the old and infirm to struggle through the throng to their seats. And even those that have some share of a seat still want accomodation for the greater part of their familys, who are put to shift for themselves with the greatest difficulty and uncertainty, hundreds of them being obliged almost every Lord's day to stand without doors, where they hear but very indistinctly, beside the other inconveniences they are exposed to. Nor can it be passed without the utmost regret that the younger people of whom there are great

numbers in the place, are scarce ever allowed to set a foot in the kirk, whereby they will naturally contract a dislike of the ordinances, and inevitably be traird up in the breach of the Lord's day, by playing at home or in the fields.

We therfor earnestly desire that you will convene the heritors as soon as possible to concert measures for enlarging the kirk. And to show our sincerity in this affair, we hope that against your meeting we shall be able to condescend upon a sure fund that may do much to extend the kirk nine couples at the east end which will make the pulpit stand directly in the middle, and make full room for the accomodation of all that want seats conform to their contributions, whereby divine worship will be attended with more conveniency on all occasions.

Your cordial concurrence in this good work will be a lasting obligation upon the whole inhabitants of this paroch and their posterity, in whose name we subscribe ourselves,

Hon. Sir,  
Your Honours  
Most Humble,  
Most Obedient Servants,  
Jo. Donaldson, Alex. Mathesone,  
Jo. Tait, Robt. Amers,  
Thomas Sheill, John Johnstone,  
William Brydon, Adam Paterson.  
Andrew Thomson."

A meeting of heritors was convened according to the prayer of the petition, of which the following is the minute,—

1717

"GALASHIELLS, *Jany. 9th*, 1717.

The sd day Sir James Scott of Gala and Robert Rutherford of Ffairnielie having mett to consider the representation on the preceding pages: And having called before ym severall of the toun of Galashiells for themselves and oyr's of the paroch yrof who have declared their great inclination to have the Kirk augmented in the terms of the sd representation. Whereby for their own interests are of the opinion the same should be enlarged and for themselves do undertake to uphold and maintain the roof of the Kirk and inlargem<sup>t</sup> yrof to be made, but doe think it proper the oyer heritors of the paroch gett a new advertisement to attend here on Saturday next, being the 12th instant, and when the Kirk is inlarged it's their opinion that the sitters contributory for the sd inlargement be accomodate w<sup>t</sup> lofts and seats at the sight of the heritors of the paroch, which when done by the appointment of the heritors is to be recorded in the Session book in order for their more peaceable possession yrof in all time comeing.

(Signed) J. SCOTT.  
RO. RUTHERFORD."

The next meeting accordingly took place on the 12th January, 1717, regarding which it is recorded,—

“The sd day Sir James Scott of Gala, William Plummer of Middlestead, and the sd Ffairniellie having mett and Mr Deans having write ane excuse that he cannot attend, but therein promises to agree to what the oyer heritors does in the above affair: And they having called before them a great many of the parochiners of Galashiells who have undertaken to take down and rebuild the inlargemt of the Kirk, conforme to the representation. And ffor qlk they engage to deliver in their obligation to George Kirkwood, clerk of Galashiells, before the taking down of any part yrof. The heritors on the other hand are of the opinion that the sd contributors for the sd inlargemt be accomodated wt lofts and seats upon the parochiners their severall charges conforme to their collections, at the heritors and Mr Davidstone, minr, their sight, who in case of any difference amongst them as to their possessions are to determine the same, and the heritors are to uphold the fabrick of the Kirk, and ffor the security of their several possessions the same is to be recorded in the Session books conforme to the former sederunt: And the heritors doe hereby appoint the sd George Kirkwood, their clerk, who is hereby authorised to give extracts of this and the former sederunt wt the representation given in to the heritors for the safety and security of the parochiners for taking down the walls of the Kirk in order to the inlargemt yrof: And the sd clerk is to take their sd bond unto his custody, who is to keep the same wt Mr Dean’s letter to be fforthcomeing to the heritors.

(Signed) J. SCOTT.  
WM. PLUMMER.  
RO. RUTHERFORD.”

Mr Davidson was married to Catherine Scott of Gala on the 23rd February, 1727, but she died in childbed on the 6th February, 1728. During his ministry Mr Davidson was most diligent in his pastoral duty, and in the exercise of discipline. He allowed the eldership to lapse, and filled their places with deacons. He was one of the twelve brethren who gave in a representation and petition to the General Assembly on the 11th May, 1721, against an Act of the Assembly passed the preceding year condemning the “Marrow of Modern Divinity.” On this account these divines were scoffingly termed the twelve apostles, of whom he was the last survivor. In 1737 a change came over his ecclesiastical views. Until that period the Communion had been celebrated annually, but, having adopted the principles of



the Independents, Mr Davidson ceased dispensing that ordinance in Galashiels for the subsequent twenty years. His friend, the Rev. Gabriel Wilson of Maxton, held the same opinions, and they formed an Independent congregation at Maxton, where, with twenty-four others, they frequently observed the Lord's Supper. When Mr Davidson underwent this change in his views he expressed his willingness to resign his charge, but his brethren in the Presbytery declined to receive it, and he continued in possession of his church and benefice till his death, which took place on the 24th October, 1756, in the sixty-ninth year of his age, and forty-second year of his ministry.

His friend the Rev. Thomas Boston of Ettrick characterised him as being

"A man of great gravity, piety, and tenderness, learned and judicious, well acquainted with books, a great preacher, delivering in a taking manner masterly thoughts in an unaffected style, endowed with the gift of prayer, in heavenly oratory beyond any man I ever saw, extremely modest and reserved in his temper, but a kind and affectionate friend."

During Mr Davidson's incumbency the following inventory was taken of the effects belonging to the church,—

"Two silver cups, a large velvet mortcloth, a second same size, a little one for children; four large cloths for the Communion service, with a lesser one, two large napkins for the element plates, two napkins for baptism, two napkins for collections, six Communion tables, forty-one sitting forms, one form for scandalous persons rebuked before the congregation, a chest with a little box for money and papers, two pewter basins, a church Bible, and two registers."

As showing the bent of Mr Davidson's mind, in 1723 he appointed a special fast day to be observed in the parish on account of the following sins and shortcomings,—

"The breach of the National Covenant with the Solemn League and Covenant, the springing up and spreading of error, the growth of Arianism, and the increase of Popery. The late sinful union between England and Scotland, toleration and patronage, and the imposing of sinful oaths."

Mr Davidson seems to have been a man of superior sagacity, as well as a pious, eloquent, and esteemed minister. At the earlier period of his ministry superstition was

prevalent, and not only had he to keep watch over his flock, but, it was said, that on their behalf he had occasionally to face the Evil One or some of his emissaries. The following legend is related concerning him:—The old tower of Buckholm was at one time inhabited by one of the Pringles, who was a cruel and blood-thirsty persecutor of the Covenanters. Some large iron hooks, fastened in the roof of the vault, were said to have been used for suspending his victims by the chin. The day of retribution came; he was called to his account, but the grave denied him rest on account of his misdeeds. His troubled ghost, goaded by a gnawing conscience, wandered nightly round the scene of his iniquities. This awful doom was to continue till his foul spirit should be accosted by some daring mortal, whose unpolluted tongue was to break the spell. Regularly at midnight the groaning spectre appeared, striking such a terror over the few remaining inhabitants of the place that none dared to venture forth at that dread hour. At length the position became utterly intolerable, and the building was about to be totally deserted, when it was suggested to apply to Mr Davidson for advice and assistance. Ever ready to respond to the cry of suffering humanity, Mr Davidson told them to allay their fears. He appointed a night on which he would encounter the frightful appearance, and promised, if within his power, an end would be put for ever to the nightly wanderings of the dreaded spectre.

The time arrived and the minister made his appearance with a Bible under his arm. Toward midnight all the inhabitants of the tower were gathered in the old hall. After engaging in devotional exercises, he strictly cautioned them to remain together, to open neither door nor window, nor at their peril seek to know aught regarding the unearthly interview that was about to take place. With the Bible in his hand he sallied forth. During his absence not a word was spoken, the trembling inmates seemed to suppress their very breath, so awful was their apprehension of the encounter between the mortal and immortal. At length, to their intense relief, Mr Davidson returned and broke

the silence by saying, "Peace be with you all, let us return thanks to the Great Reliever of all our troubles, and henceforth know that the cause of your fears is laid to rest. Ask no questions; what has transpired can never be revealed."

The old tower still rears its head, but since that awful night, "The Deil o' Buckholm" left it in the peaceful possession of the shepherds and others, who now find a quiet home within its old grey lichen-covered walls.

Mr Davidson was succeeded by Alexander Glen, who studied at the University of Edinburgh, and was licensed by the Presbytery of Haddington on the 10th October, 1749. He received a call to Kirkton on the 19th July and was ordained on the 25th September, 1751. He was presented to Galashiels by Hugh Scott of Gala on the 8th March, and admitted on the 7th  
1757 December, 1757. As there had been no elders during the greater part of Mr Davidson's ministry, the two principal heritors, Hugh Scott of Gala and Robert Rutherford of Fernilee, were appointed to the office. Under Mr Glen a vigorous discipline was maintained, and penitents, not only for breaches of the Seventh Commandment but also for drunkenness and evil speaking, had, without respect of persons, to appear before the congregation and submit to public rebuke. Under his regime, the most severe penalty recorded in the Galashiels Session records was imposed upon a married man named Mabon, who had been guilty of an aggravated breach of the Seventh Commandment. He was ordered

"To stand in sackcloth at the most patent door of the church at the ringing of the second bell, and as soon as public worship was begun, he should come into the church, and appear in the public place of repentance."

On ordinary occasions three appearances were deemed sufficient, but in this case the offender had to present himself in the above guise no fewer than nineteen times, before he was restored to Church privileges.

1759 In 1759 the dilapidated condition of the manse rendered repairs necessary, and a sum, amounting to £44, 13s 1d, was expended in providing material, and a further sum

of £53, 10s was required to complete the work. In these circumstances, Mr Glen pointed out to the heritors that this sum, together with the material which had been procured, would prove sufficient to build a new manse upon the land set off for a glebe. In consideration of having the manse upon the ground, he offered to accept the money and material, together with the old manse, which would be utilised in erecting the new one, which he undertook to cover with slates, while the offices would be covered with "divot" and thatch, and to this proposal the heritors agreed. No sooner, however, was the work completed than Mr Glen was translated to Dirleton and admitted on the 19th October, 1769. He died on the 6th March, 1805, aged seventy-nine, in the fifty-fourth year of his ministry.

## CHAPTER VII.

**T**HE next incumbent was the Rev. Robert Douglas, son of the Rev. John Douglas, minister of Jedburgh, who had rather a curious history. He was formerly minister of Kenmore in the highlands of Perthshire. During the rebellion (1744-46) he did his utmost to keep his parishioners loyal to the Crown. After the battle of Culloden, he interceded on behalf of those who had taken part in the rebellion, and by his influence saved the lives of many. The Government did not leave his services unrewarded, and in 1757 presented him to the parish of Jedburgh. Previous to this, however, the Rev. John Bonar, minister of Cockpen, had been presented to the same living, but was bitterly opposed by the congregation, who had set their hearts upon having the Rev. Thomas Boston of Oxnam. Meanwhile Mr Bonar had another call to Perth, which he accepted. In continued disregard of the popular wish, a presentation was issued in favour of Mr Douglas, against whose settlement the congregation were more opposed than ever. So flagrant and high-handed was the conduct of those in authority that the Presbytery declined to induct Mr Douglas, and pleaded that the presentation should be withdrawn, for this among other reasons "that the whole parish except five are openly against him." In May, 1758, the General Assembly enjoined the Presbytery to admit Mr Douglas, which, under such pressure, was eventually accomplished.

Robert Douglas, the future minister of Galashiels, was born in the manse at Kenmore on the 17th July, 1747. Nothing is known of his early life or where he received his education, but in all probability it was at Aberdeen, as it was from that University he received his degree of D.D. In the twenty-third year of his age, he was presented by Hugh Scott of Gala to the living of Galashiels, and was ordained by the Presbytery of



REV. DR PATERSON

REV. DR VEITCH

REV. DR DOUGLAS

REV. DR PHIN

REV. DR GLOAG



1770 Selkirk on his birthday, 17th July, 1770. In 1775, the living was augmented from £800 to £1000 Scots, with £4, 3s 4d Sterling for Communion elements, besides the glebe, which was rented for £15 annually. In 1780 another addition was made to the stipend on an application to the Court of Teinds. In support of his claim, Mr Douglas urged the extra expense of being obliged to use a boat in going from one part of the parish to another. The heritors objected to the increase on the ground that Mr Douglas was

“A young man unmarried, and therefore does not deserve the same favour from his country that nearly all the settled clergy of the Church of Scotland merited.”

However, the Court thought otherwise, and augmentation was granted to the extent of £18, 1s 1½d Sterling, thus raising the stipend to £87, 10s, including the allowance for Communion elements.

When Mr Douglas came to Galashiels the church was in a somewhat ruinous state, and the heritors voluntarily assessed themselves “to put the kirk into a decent condition, by plastering the roof, repairing the doors and windows, and casting it upon the outside.” In 1781 further repairs were necessary, and, in recognition of the readiness with which the heritors had agreed to accommodate him in connection with the manse, Mr Douglas undertook to relieve them from any further outlay on the church during his incumbency, except it should fail in walls, roof, joists, floor, or windows. At the same time he informed the heritors that the churchyard wall was in bad repair, caused by the weavers and skinners drying their webs and skins upon it, a practice which he was authorised to put a stop to.

1783 In 1783 Mr Douglas made his first appearance as an author, his work being a pamphlet of 108 pages, entitled *Observations on the Nature of Oaths*. At that time he made a journey on horseback through England by way of Newcastle and York to London, and from thence to Bath, returning by way of Carlisle.



He was not long settled in Galashiels till his strong, robust mind began to show itself. He soon saw that the antiquated, and in many cases, cruel system of Church discipline tended to defeat its own object. He succeeded in persuading the Session to take the subject into consideration, and was the means of introducing into Galashiels a new method of dealing with offenders against the moral law. In place of the old system of public rebuke, a fine of a guinea was substituted, provided certain conditions had been complied with, the fine being applied to the relief of those in distress whose names were not on the regular poor's roll.

1787 In 1787 the state of the manse necessitated another appeal to the heritors, and Mr Douglas reported that

"The joists, floors, stairs, and several windows were insufficient, and the walls admitted water in several places; beside, the house was too small for a rising family. There was no garret, the stair being also dangerous for children, the upper rooms seldom admitted fires, both they and the kitchen being very cold."

In the circumstances, while claiming suitable repairs, he offered to carry all the material necessary, provided the heritors would agree to the addition of a nursery with a garret above it. Should they agree to build a new manse, he offered to provide all the necessary carriage, and subscribe £20, £30, or even £50 in cash, according to the locality and accommodation provided. The manse was inspected, and an addition was made conform to the desire of Mr Douglas, at an outlay of £104. The office houses next claimed attention, and that matter was compromised by the erection of a cart shed costing £12.

About this time Mr Douglas found himself engaged in a great controversy, viz.:—the election of a successor to Dr Drysdale, the principal clerk of the Assembly. The Moderate party of the Church fixed upon him as a candidate, but he declined the honour, and his name was not brought forward.

1793 In 1793 Mr Douglas raised another action for an augmentation of stipend, and by that time he had overcome the former objection urged against him by the heritors. He now based

his claim on the ground that the stipend was insufficient for "the expenses of a family." He further stated that the parish contained about 1000 inhabitants, the rental being £2095 Sterling, made up as follows:—Hugh Scott of Gala, £1092; Mark Pringle of Clifton, £468; Andrew Plummer of Middlestead, £290; Nicol Milne of Faldonside, £162; Rev. Charles Findlater, £57; and George and John Anderson of Bridgehaugh, £32. The stipend was augmented to the extent of two chalders and a half boll of meal, and a half boll of "bear." New offices were also erected at the manse at a cost of £105, but, when the work was completed, it was discovered that no allowance had been made for hecks, mangers, &c., and these the heritors declined to pay. On coming under obligation to maintain the offices, Mr Douglas wrote at the foot of the agreement,

"Though I willingly sign the above obligation to uphold the office houses, and leave them in good condition, I do not consider it to include hecks, mangers, and fittings generally, provided at my sole expense, and belonging to me or my heirs."

In consequence of the churchyard wall having again fallen into a ruinous condition, it was rebuilt "two ells in height;" Mr Douglas at the same time agreed to keep his horses and black cattle from pasturing within the enclosure.

1797 In 1797 Mr Douglas received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from the University of Aberdeen. He now occupied an influential position in the Church, and was not only the respected minister of what at that date was a rural parish, but exercised considerable influence in the Church Courts. He carried on a correspondence with the leading men of the Church, and belonged to what was termed the Constitutional section, which would now be regarded as the extreme moderate party. He did not, however, imitate them in their preaching, but was, there is reason to believe, evangelical in his discourses, though none of his sermons are preserved.

1798 In 1798 Dr Douglas published a work entitled *General View of the Agriculture of the Counties of Roxburgh and Selkirk, with Observations on the Means of their Improvement.*

This work was undertaken at the request of Sir John Sinclair and several gentlemen in both counties, and, though now out of date, it is full of information concerning the state of the district a century ago.

1804      In 1804 Dr Douglas made an application for a further increase to his stipend, the rental of the parish having risen to £3190, which was granted to the extent of four chalders.

## CHAPTER VIII.

**D**R DOUGLAS was a notable man in many respects, but that which procured for him a lasting reputation in his own neighbourhood was his efforts to promote the woollen trade. He freely lent his money to the manufacturers of that period, and, with his shrewd common sense, insisted that they should provide themselves with the newest and best machinery. It was to the credit of those whom he thus assisted that they faithfully repaid him, yet all honour is due to him for his confidence and generosity, and for the manner in which he continually interested himself for the promotion of their material benefit. It may be fairly asserted that, but for his assistance, the woollen trade in Galashiels would not have so early developed into the magnitude to which it attained. In every time of need he came forward, and assisted the manufacturers to weather the storm; not only proving himself their spiritual guide, but also their liberal-hearted benefactor.

1811 In 1811 occurred the notable sale of Cartleyhole, or, as it is spelt in an old business-book which belonged to a merchant in Galashiels, "Cartlawhole," and in Melrose Session records, "Cartlihole." Regarding the transaction, Walter Scott thus writes to a friend,—

"As my lease of this place (Ashiestiel) is out, I have bought for about £4000 a property in the neighbourhood extending along the bank of the river Tweed for about half a mile. . . . This is the greatest incident that has taken place in our domestic concerns, and I assure you we are not a little proud at being greeted as the Lord and Lady of Abbotsford."

This property formerly belonged to a portioner named Dickson, whose last representative carried it by marriage to Walter Turnbull, schoolmaster at Melrose. Turnbull sold the land to Dr Douglas, from whom it was purchased by Scott in 1811, and he sent the following letter acknowledging receipt of the payment of the last instalment of the purchase money,—

“June, 1818.

DEAR DOCTOR,

I received the discharged bill safe, which puts an end to our relation of debtor and creditor, &c. I am glad you have been satisfied with my manner of transacting business, and have equal reason at least to thank you for your kindly accommodation as to time and manner of payment. In short, I hope our temporary connection forms a happy contradiction to the proverb, ‘I lent my money to my friend, I lost my money and my friend.’

Believe me,

With great sincerity, Dear Sir, your obliged servant,  
ABBOTSFORD, *Monday*.

(Signed) WALTER SCOTT.



ABBOTSFORD IN 1812.

In regard to the appearance of Cartleyhole when it was acquired by Scott, Lockhart states,—

“The farm consisted of a rich meadow or haugh along the bank of the river, and about one hundred acres of undulating ground behind, all in a neglected state, undrained, wretchedly enclosed, and much of it covered with nothing better than native heath. The farmhouse itself was small and poor, with a common kailyard on one flank, and a staring barn of the Doctor’s erection at the other; while in front appeared a filthy pond covered with ducks and duckweed.”

Such was the original condition and appearance of the buildings which have been supplanted by that "romance in stone and lime," toward which thousands of pilgrims turn their steps to gaze on the dwelling-place and scenes rendered classic by the genius and talent of Sir Walter Scott.

Dr Douglas was always on intimate terms with the laird of Abbotsford and they frequently visited each other, he being the minister alluded to in *Paul's Letters to his Kinsfolk*. When Scott was travelling in France in 1815, he addressed a long letter to Dr Douglas regarding the religion of that country.

The following letter is undated, but serves to show the intimate nature of the relations that existed between the great novelist and the parish minister of Galashiels,—

MR DEAR DOCTOR,

Receive my best thanks for your kind attention in sending me the Roman curiosity. It is, I believe, a sacrificing vessel from which the wine was poured on the brow of the victim, so it is to a hobby-horsical antiquary *omen faustum felixque*. I shall write to give the man some reward, and if anything else should be found, the finder may rely I will pay the full value.

I am sorry my servant Purdie plagued you about the fence. If Mr Mercer likes to put it up, well and good; but if not, I must do it myself to protect a little plot of planting, and I can afterwards settle with him about keeping it in order. I am glad the Tweed spared my humble mounds, but I think I will raise them somewhat higher next summer, that I may make assurance doubly sure.

Mrs Scott is flattered by the Lady of Harden that we are to meet you at Christmas there, when I hope we shall have as cheerful a party as our last was. You will be glad to hear that in the course of my searching into the planting round about Redfords House, I found many young oaks, in infancy to be sure, but looking thriving and hearty. I am truly sorry that you got any plague about the fences, as I am sure your own way and time should have been mine.

Believe me, Dear Sir,

Very truly yours,

EDINBURGH, 2nd December.

(Signed) WALTER SCOTT.

P.S.—The ancient *patra* came just at the same day with an immense silver charger big enough to hold the head of a second St John, or a baron of beef, which we Presbyterians hold better than a relique. It is a present from my brethren, the Clerks of Session."

This letter was "franked," according to the manner customary at the time, to save the cost of postage, and was addressed,—

"THE REV. DR DOUGLAS,  
Favoured by Mr CHARLES ERSKINE."

The dilapidated condition of the church now caused Dr Douglas to draw the attention of the heritors to the necessity of something being done towards its improvement. He stated that

"During the last two winters the congregation had made frequent and loud complaint of the church being cold, damp, and uncomfortable, and that several entertained suspicion of its being unsafe, and that it was extremely incommodious both for the speaker and hearers, being seventy-five feet long and scarcely eighteen feet wide."

It was furnished with lofts or galleries, as one entry in the Session records mentions that the sum of £12 Scots was paid for the repair of "one of the common lofts and the stairs thereto."

John Smith of Darnick was appointed to examine the building, and he reported that

"The church was dangerous, unhealthy, and totally unfit for divine service. The front wall of the house, owing to the spurring of the roof, was considerably off the plumb, all the other walls being more or less so, none of them were straight, but bulged and twisted in many places, and much wasted and decayed, the rain penetrating through the walls, rendering the whole insufficient and dangerous. The floor was also twenty inches below the level of the churchyard, consequently the church was very damp. Access could not be got to the roof, but from the appearance outside without doubt it also was much decayed, the timbers being considerably bent in and the surface unequal."

Notwithstanding this report on the disgraceful condition of  
1812 the building, the heritors did nothing till 1812, when Dr Douglas applied to the Presbytery, and at length they came to the resolution to build a new church. The plans were prepared by Mr Smith of Darnick, and Messrs Sanderson & Paterson, Buckholmside, undertook to complete the church and tower,

including boundary walls, for the sum of £1305. When the new church was erected, the old building in the churchyard was removed, and the joughs which were affixed to the side of the church door were, about 1850, presented by Adam Paterson to the Antiquarian Society in Edinburgh, where they can still be seen.

Previous to the erection of the new church, the condition of the manse had been quite in keeping with the old building. Complaint was now made by Dr Douglas that

“The snow was drifting through the roof, the ground floor being covered with water, the old part of the building being uninhabitable. In consequence of having been built with clay the walls were so hungry as to admit damp and air, the joists and floors together with a considerable part of the roof were rotten, the windows, doors, and stairs being also much wasted, admitting a cold sifting wind into every room. It was unsafe, and so unhealthy that both he and his wife had suffered a good deal of trouble caused by the state of the manse, and having secured another house in the village, he expected the heritors would take advantage of his absence to have the cause of his complaints removed.”

The heritors evidently found that the repair of such a ruin was impossible, and they came to the conclusion to erect a new manse from plans prepared by Mr Smith, at the estimated cost of £645, the contractors being Thomson & Paterson, of Galashiels.

The liability of the parochial schoolmaster either to officiate in the precentor's desk or find a substitute now required settlement. Hitherto the schoolmaster had paid twenty shillings annually for a suitable person. On the advent of Robert Fyshe, however, he demurred to this payment, and as the duty had formed no part of his agreement it was resolved to pay Mr Watson, the precentor, the sum of £2 annually while he officiated. This arrangement did not continue long, as when Mr Watson had completed fifty years' service he resigned, and the heritors agreed to continue his salary for the remainder of his life. Another change took place in consequence of the death of the old “bedell,” Robert Young. He was succeeded



by James Rodger, whose emoluments were fixed at the following rates,—For digging a grave, 1s 6d; for mortcloth, 6d; for a marriage and baptism, 3d each, besides a salary of 20s annually paid by the Kirk Session.

The beneficent effects of the ministry of Dr Douglas were not confined to the parish, as by his exertions the county library at Selkirk was founded. The inhabitants of that burgh gratefully recognised his services by presenting him with his portrait, painted by Raeburn, which is now in the possession of R. D. Thomson, a grandson, living in Edinburgh. Two replicas were taken of this portrait, one of which is in Selkirk, and the other hangs in the Galashiels Public Hall.

1819 In the month of May, 1819, Dr Douglas had finished his life's work, and the shadows of evening had gathered around him when he appeared for the last time in the pulpit to deliver his farewell sermon. This affecting scene is thus described by a spectator,—

“I was present when the doctor preached his farewell sermon to his flock, most of whom he had baptised, and never shall forget the scene. One of his daughters had been lately married to a neighbouring minister, and the old blind man was guided by them to his wonted place, after which the simple service began. The ordeal he bore with fortitude till he had to speak in his own person, and to the occasion, when his voice failed him. He groped back over his subject and fragments of his thoughts found their way into words, but repetitions and incoherences brought his children around him. Then he was borne back to his own familiar seat amid the tears and blessings of his flock, and the service was concluded by his son-in-law.”

Though he lingered for over a year, yet life was not desirable. He was blind and had lost the use of his limbs, and his mind was impaired. But his work was finished, he had nobly played his part in the battle of life, and he entered into his rest  
1820 on the 15th November, 1820, in the seventy-third year of his age.

Little more need be said regarding him; it is hardly necessary to describe his character. He was a man of eminent shrewdness, foresight, and benevolence. Nor was he less distinguished for his tolerance and freedom from bigotry. He visited the houses

of Dissenters as well as those of his own people, and the testimony of a Seceder of the strictest denomination is to the effect that the Doctor never omitted to visit his cottage, and with his accustomed urbanity would say, "I know you do not belong to my congregation, but that is no reason why I should not come in and have a chat with you, ask how you are getting on, and see if I cannot be in any way useful to you."

Such was Dr Douglas, at once the pastor and father of his people. He sleeps in the old churchyard, "no storied urn or animated bust" marks the spot, only a plain tombstone bearing the inscription, "In memory of Robert Douglas, D.D., for fifty years minister of Galashiels, ordained 19th July, 1770, died 15th November, 1820." So be it; he requires no epitaph, his works speak for him, and as long as Galashiels stands his name will be held in grateful remembrance as the chief contributor to the building up of its prosperity and fame.

In 1784 Dr Douglas married Robina, daughter of Dr Lothian, Edinburgh, by whom he had a family of seven. His wife died 1st October, 1837, aged eighty-two. Two sons, John and Edward, died in infancy; Robert died in 1809; Helen, wife of the Rev. John Thomson of Maxton, died 14th February, 1831; George died at Glasgow in 1846; Beatrice died at Kelso, 28th December, 1850; and Arabella died at Edinburgh, 27th June, 1876.

Miss Arabella, the last survivor of the family, left a legacy of £500 for the erection of a memorial window to the memory of her father in St Paul's Church, Galashiels. The subject is the Good Samaritan, suggestive of Dr Douglas's philanthropy and benevolence of disposition. The window bears the following inscription:—"Luke x., 30-37; Matthew xxv., 40: 'Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me.' In memory of Robert Douglas, minister of Galashiels, 1770-1820. Erected by his daughter Arabella."

## CHAPTER IX.

THE Rev. Nathaniel Paterson was the next incumbent. He was born in the parish of Kells, Kirkcudbrightshire, in 1787, being the eldest son of Walter Paterson, stone-cutter, Balmaclellan. His grandfather was Robert Paterson, who was immortalised by Sir Walter Scott, as the prototype of "Old Mortality." After Mr Paterson left college, where he supported himself by private teaching, he went to reside at Auchenbowie as tutor to the family of Monroe Binning, where he remained for six years. The next two years were spent at Dalmeny, where he filled a similar position in a boarding school. Having no immediate prospect of a settlement, he accepted a tutorship in Northumberland. On the death of Dr Douglas, the patron, Mr Scott of Gala, wrote to his uncle, Monroe Binning, in whose family Mr Paterson had been tutor, asking if he could recommend some first-rate man for the vacancy. Mr Binning at once named Mr Paterson, but the congregation refused to accept him, regarding it as a case of the uncle getting the nephew to pension off a discarded tutor.

His first public appearance as a preacher was unfortunate and did nothing to allay the popular feeling against him. He thus recounts his experience,—“On my first preaching at Galashiels, I was sick after breakfast, and actually fell asleep an hour before the bell rang. Both the precentor and the beadle sympathised, the former saying, ‘When I have to sing in that kirk I can take no breakfast,’ the latter, ‘The first time I rang that bell I didna ken which end o’ me was up.’” At length in 1821 a settlement, which might be called violent, was effected, but eventually the result justified Mr Scott’s choice. Soon the church was crowded, a new gallery was erected, which was speedily filled, and during the twelve years of Mr Paterson’s ministry the number of communicants was doubled.

In those days it was customary to baptise the children at home and drink to the health of the new arrival. After the ceremony mirth grew fast and furious, quite out of keeping with the nature of the ordinance. Mr Paterson set his face against this custom, and induced the Session to pass a resolution that, in the absence of a sufficient reason, baptism would only be administered in the church. At that time Mr Paterson regarded the ministry as merely a profession, but after being settled for about three years, his views underwent a thorough change, which, although not precisely sudden, was none the less great and decided. As time went on, he became more earnest, devoting much of his time to pastoral visitation. He was constant in his attendance upon the sick, and visited every member of his congregation at least once a year. He was fond of out-door exercise, and spent some of his leisure time in planting trees upon the Gala estate. In 1825 he married Margaret, daughter of Robert Laidlaw of The Peel, who was a great friend of Sir Walter Scott. Mr Paterson was also a welcome guest at Abbotsford, but finding that his invitations were always for the Saturday, which interfered with his pulpit preparation, he wrote to Sir Walter, who afterwards invited him earlier in the week. On the occasion of laying the foundation stones of the bridges over the Tweed and Ettrick in 1831, Sir Walter wrote in his diary, "The day was beautiful and the people in good spirits and good humour. Mr Paterson of Galashiels made a most excellent prayer." When he was laid aside from active work in consequence of bad health, he utilised part of his time in writing that highly esteemed work, *The Manse Garden*.

After the passing of the Reform Bill in 1832 an incident occurred which affected Mr Paterson greatly. When the election for the county took place, he voted according to his convictions for the Tory candidate, and for so doing he was assailed by the mob. Their hisses and yells would not have disturbed him, but he had to endure a greater indignity, he was actually spat upon in his own church. If such treatment had made him dis-

satisfied with Galashiels, a call to St Andrew's Church, Glasgow, fixed his resolution. He accepted the call, but was not allowed to leave without a tangible and pleasing token testifying to the general regard in which he was held. The ladies belonging the parish presented him with a silver salver, upon which the town's arms and the following inscription were engraved:—"The Rev. N. Paterson having for a period of twelve years faithfully and zealously discharged his various and important duties as minister of the Gospel in Galashiels, this piece of plate is presented by the ladies of that town and vicinity. Galashiels, Dec. 1833." The presentation was made by Mrs Robert Haldane and Mrs Henry Sanderson. But a still stronger proof of attachment was shown by the inhabitants when he left the town. There was no railway then, and the stage coach which ran between Jedburgh and Edinburgh drove up to the manse for the minister and his family, who took their seats inside. Mr Paterson sat on the outside of the coach, and all the way through the town the people turned out to give him a parting cheer.

In 1837 Mr Paterson obtained the degree of Doctor of Divinity from the University of Glasgow, his congregation paying the dues, and at the same time, in honour of the occasion, presented him with a piece of plate. At the Disruption in 1843 he cast in his lot with the Free Church, and occupied a place in that historic procession between St Giles' and Tanfield Hall. "It was a grand sight," said a lady to him shortly afterwards. "Aye," he drily replied, "to look at." In 1844 he was settled in Free St Andrew's, Glasgow, and in 1850 he was chosen to fill the Moderator's chair in the General Assembly. His wife died in 1864, and he died on the 25th April, 1871, in the eighty-fourth year of his age, at Helensburgh, whither he had retired, leaving a family of four sons and three daughters.

Mr Paterson contributed the article on the Parish of Galashiels to the *New Statistical Account*, published in 1833, which contains much valuable and interesting information regarding the town at that transition period in its history. *The*

*Manse Garden* was published three years after Mr Paterson left Galashiels. The garden in question was in existence before his settlement there, but it had nearly returned to a state of nature when he planted and beautified it in no ordinary degree.

Mr Paterson was an enthusiastic angler, and to a correspondent in Canada he thus writes,—

“You write of streams and waterfalls, rocky pools, and, of course, noble fish. I thought I should like to visit you, and go where basket lids cannot get down for projecting tails. I must own, however, that your splendid success recalled to my mind a long-forgotten anecdote. A Galashiels man had been out at Tweed with the deadly salmon roe, and the flood being highly favourable, he had succeeded to his own astonishment. But home he cannot go without visiting on his way the crack fisher of the town, in order to exhibit his amazing treasure, doubtless expecting a high compliment to his skill. But what was the response on seeing the grand sight? ‘Eh, man! if I had been there mysel’.’”

During Mr Paterson's term of office the stipend was raised to fifteen chalders, with £8, 6s 8d for Communion elements. On the average for the past ten years the stipend amounted to £242, 11s 9d. The glebe consisted of something under six acres of good land, and the proprietors of Lindean and Bridgehaugh paid nine bolls three firlots of barley, Linlithgow measure, as the annual rent of the glebe lands lying within these estates.

## CHAPTER X.

THE next incumbent was the Rev. James Veitch, who was born on the 27th April, 1808, at Inchbonny, near Jedburgh. Mr Veitch studied at the University of Edinburgh, and became a licentiate in 1830. For the next four years he was tutor in the family of Plummer of Sunderland Hall, and it was through the influence of Miss Plummer that he 1834 was presented to the living of Galashiels in 1834 by John Scott of Gala.

His ministry there lasted only for six years, but during that time he acquired the reputation of being a great preacher. The church was always crowded, forms having to be used to supplement the pews, and even the pulpit stairs were occupied with admiring listeners. During the period of his ministry the Session consisted of three members, viz.:—James Leitch, Lindean; James Bathgate and George Tacket, Galashiels.

In 1836 the heritors considered that a new church bell was necessary, and they decided to procure one twenty-four inches in diameter, to weigh 336 lbs., at a cost of £37. Mr Craig, however, objected on the ground that the old bell, which had been put up at Mr Scott of Gala's expense, was sufficient. It was at length agreed that it should be used in the material required for the new one, and a deduction made from his share of the cost, according to the weight of the metal. The new bell was prepared and hung in the tower of the church, it being inscribed "Thomas Mearns of London, Founder, 1836."

The old bell referred to by Mr Craig would be procured in 1617, when the first church was built. On account of being cracked, it was recast, the inscription put upon it at that time being "John Meikle, *Fecit*, Edinburgh, for Gallashiels, 1695." For some unexplained reason the old bell was not used, but thrown aside as lumber. At length it came into the possession

of William Watson & Sons, Hawick, and now does duty as a factory bell for that firm.

Thus the old bell, the familiar tone of which had for over two hundred years called together the forefathers of the hamlet to bow the knee in their humble house of prayer, which had given voice to the joys and sorrows of succeeding generations of men and women who had played their little parts and were at length laid to sleep in the kirkyard, was carried off, and,

“ Lost in the changes and manners o’ men,  
Nane to remember ne’er ane to ken,  
That a joyfu’ jowl and a waefu’ knell  
As it swung, hae been rung by the auld kirk bell.”

When in Galashiels, Mr Veitch was somewhat of a recluse, being seldom seen except on the Sabbath. So much of his time was occupied in preparation for the pulpit that little was left for visitation, though he was always attentive in cases of sickness and distress. He took a warm interest in the religious education of the young, and was the first parish minister in Galashiels who commenced a Sabbath school. In this scheme he was opposed by his Session, who considered it would be an interference with the Sabbath school carried on by the Rev. James Henderson of the Secession Church. However, he persisted, and on the opening day 200 scholars attended. Mr Veitch was of a retiring disposition, and seldom took part in Church Court business. At length his health gave way, and he was constrained to seek some quieter sphere of labour. In 1840 he was presented to Newbattle by John, Marquis of Lothian, and, before leaving Galashiels, he received a gold watch as a mark of respect and gratitude, and as a tribute to his unwearied zeal for the spiritual welfare of his parishioners.

He was not suffered to remain long in his new sphere of labour, and after refusing several calls, he accepted a presentation to the second charge of St Cuthbert’s, Edinburgh, in 1843. Here he maintained his reputation as a preacher, and notwithstanding the secession of the Free Church party, the congregation increased.



In 1854 the degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred upon him by the University of Glasgow, and he was appointed convener of the Foreign Mission Scheme. He was offered the Chair of Divinity in the University of Edinburgh, which he declined. The Moderatorship of the General Assembly was also refused as he shrank from occupying such a public position. In 1878 his health visibly declined, and he resigned his charge in St Cuthbert's after having occupied it for thirty-five years. In the following month of October he visited Galashiels for the last time and renewed some of his old friendships. He died on the 11th April, 1879, in the seventy-first year of his age.

When Mr Veitch was translated to Newbattle he was succeeded by the Rev. Kenneth M'Leay Phin, who was a son of the manse, having been born in 1816 at Wick, where his father was parish minister. He received his education at the University of Edinburgh and was licensed to preach the Gospel in 1837. 1841 In 1841 he was presented by Mr Scott of Gala to the parish of Galashiels, where he continued for the following twenty-nine years.

He was a faithful minister and very diligent in the performance of his pastoral work. Gifted with a powerful memory and a frank disposition, he became intimately acquainted with all his parishioners. Both in the inferior Church Courts and the General Assembly he soon began to make his mark. In 1862 he was presented to the first collegiate charge of South Leith, but, after preaching his trial discourses, he was objected to by a party in the congregation, including the minister of the second charge. In these circumstances he voluntarily withdrew in the interests of peace, and the presentation was departed from.

In 1863 Mr Phin was appointed to the convenership of the Army and Navy Chaplain Committee, the duties of which he discharged with much tact and success. In 1869 he received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from the University of Edinburgh, and was appointed convener of the Home Mission Scheme. Under his care no scheme of the Church was better managed; he

showed in its administration an impartiality, a judiciousness, and a business capacity which earned for him the approbation of the whole Church. In order to fulfil the duties in the manner he considered necessary, he felt compelled to resign his charge in 1870 Galashiels, which he did in 1870, breaking many ties formed during his long pastorate. On leaving, he was presented with his portrait, painted by Robert Herdman, R.S.A., inscribed:—"Presented to Dr Phin by the parishioners of Galashiels as a token of their high esteem for him as their pastor and friend for a period of thirty years, on the occasion of the resigning of his pastoral charge to devote his gratuitous services to the schemes of the Church of Scotland—1871."

Dr Phin removed to Edinburgh, where he devoted himself to the Home Mission Scheme and general work of the Church. Though not personally approving of the introduction of instrumental music in public worship, he was one of the framers of the Declaratory Act of 1866 which now regulates such matters. In 1877 he was raised to the Moderator's Chair, which he occupied with dignity and credit. Shortly afterwards Dr Phin was appointed convener of the business committee of the General Assembly, which made him practically leader of the house. It was on this footing that in the course of 1887 he was one of the deputation to Westminster Abbey to represent the Church of Scotland at the Jubilee celebration, and also one of the smaller deputations who were received by the Queen at Windsor.

For many years Dr Phin took a warm interest in the University of Edinburgh and he sat for some time in the University Court as Assessor for the General Assembly. He was suddenly cut off in January, 1888, in the seventy-second year of his age, in the midst of his usefulness. His mental power was unabated, and his bodily vigour unimpaired. He died full of years and honours, lamented by the Church of which he had been at once an ornament and support.

## CHAPTER XI.

WHEN Dr Phin resigned his charge in 1870, he was succeeded by the Rev. Paton J. Gloag, D.D. Dr Gloag was born at Perth on 17th May, 1823. He attended the Universities of Edinburgh (1840-43) and St Andrews (1843-46.) He became minister of Dunning in Perthshire in 1871 1848, Blantyre in 1860, and Galashiels on 20th April, 1871.

When Dr Gloag was inducted to the parish of Galashiels, there were three former ministers of the parish alive, viz.:—Dr Nathaniel Paterson, Dr Phin, and Dr Veitch, the last of whom introduced him to the congregation. Dr Gloag's ministry was marked by singular faithfulness, energy, and method. He took a warm interest in every movement that had for its object the welfare and benefit of the inhabitants of the town.

It was during Dr Gloag's ministry that the new manse was erected in 1872 at a cost of over £2500. After his removal, the old manse was acquired by William Haldane, who conferred upon it the name of The Grange, and it still retains all the attraction it enjoyed in the time of the author of *The Manse Garden*, over sixty years ago. St Paul's Church was also erected within the same period, being commenced in 1876. It was opened for public worship on the 23rd November, 1881. The building, organ, &c., cost nearly £17,000, which, with the exception of a grant of £1700 from the Baird Trust, was defrayed by the congregation.

It is, however, chiefly as a theological writer that Dr Gloag is known. Before he came to Galashiels he was recognised as a laborious student, and had already given proof of ripe scholarship and ability. The University of St Andrews, recognising his eminence as a scholar, conferred upon him in 1867 the degree of Doctor of Divinity. After a faithful service extending to twenty-one years, he resigned on account of failing health in 1892.

Dr Gloag belongs to the positive critical school, and, though not afraid of the speculative conclusions of other writers, has been careful to endorse no opinion that does not commend itself to a careful exegesis and a sober judgment. He is the author of the following works:—*The Assurance of Salvation* (1853, second edition 1869), *Justification by Faith* (1856), *Primeval World; or, Relation of Geology to Revelation* (1859), *The Resurrection* (1862), *Translation of Lechler's Commentary on Acts* in the Lange series (1864), *Practical Christianity* (1866), *Translation of Meyer on Acts* (1877), *The Messianic Prophecies* (Baird lectures, 1879), *Translation of Lunemann on Thessalonians* (1880), *Translation of Huther on James and Jude* (1881), *Life of Paul* (Bible primer, 1881), *Commentary on James* in *Schaff's Popular Commentary* (1883), *Exegetical Studies* (1884), *Commentary on the Epistle to the Thessalonians* in the *Pulpit Commentary* (1887), *Life of John* (Bible primer, 1892), besides articles in reviews and other periodicals.

But while Dr Gloag has won laurels in almost all departments of Biblical scholarship, he has taken a position in the front rank for his able, comprehensive, and scholarly volumes on New Testament introduction. This series was begun in 1870 by the publication of the two volumes, *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Acts of the Apostles*, a work which embraces introduction as well as exegesis. In 1876 appeared his *Introduction to the Pauline Epistles*, in 1887 *Introduction to the Catholic Epistles*, in 1891 *Introduction to the Johannine Writings*, and in 1895 *Introduction to the Synoptic Gospels*.

Dr Gloag was Baird lecturer in 1869, in 1889 he was elected Moderator of the General Assembly, and in 1896 he was appointed interim Professor of Biblical Criticism in Aberdeen University.

Dr Gloag was succeeded by the Rev. David Hunter, D.D., 1892 who was inducted in December, 1892.

Dr Hunter belongs to an old Ayrshire family whose name has been on historical record for centuries. He was born in 1850 in the Newtown of Ayr, and received his early education at the Newtown Academy. In 1868, he entered the University of

Glasgow as first bursar, and distinguished himself greatly in the Arts course, taking a foremost place in all his classes. He gained several prizes open to the University, graduating as Master of Arts with honours in classics and highest honours in philosophy, being also awarded the Armagh Scholarship and the Luke Fellowship, as the most distinguished graduate of his year. In the Divinity Hall he was no less successful, as, in addition to class prizes, he secured the Rae Wilson and the Cleland gold medals for essays in theology, the Henderson prize for sermon composition, the Findlater Scholarship and the Black Fellowship for eminence in Biblical Criticism. He also graduated as a Bachelor of Divinity; and, at the close of his theological studies in Glasgow, went abroad for a year, where he attended lectures in the Universities of Tübingen and Leipsic.

In 1877 he was licensed by the Presbytery of Ayr, and thereafter was appointed assistant to the Rev. Dr M'Gregor of St Cuthbert's, Edinburgh. Toward the close of that year he accepted a call to be assistant and successor in the parish of Kelso, where he was ordained on the 23rd January, 1878. While there, he continued his theological studies, and translated several works from the French and German.

In 1882 he accepted a call to the church of St Mary's, Partick, where, in addition to the duties of the ministry, he served for some time on the Govan School Board. He also took an active interest in matters affecting the University, and was complimented by the University Commissioners for the value of his suggestions and his evidence regarding University reform.

In 1890, he was appointed by the General Assembly to preach before the Lord High Commissioner in St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh. In 1892 he received the degree of D.D. from the University of Glasgow, and in the same year he accepted a call to Galashiels, where he continues to minister in the Parish Church and St Paul's, proving a worthy successor to the able and talented men who, in their day and generation, have occupied the pulpit of the Parish Church of Galashiels.

## GALASHIELS FREE CHURCH.

The original members of this congregation belonged to the Parish Church of Galashiels. At the Disruption in May, 1843, they "came out," and the roll of the new congregation contained the names of one hundred and fifty-eight members and fifty adherents. The seceding party acquired the Salmon Inn ball-room as a temporary place of worship, where the first service in connection with the new denomination was held on the 28th May, 1843, being conducted by a probationer named William Scott. Mr Scott's services were continued for some time, and met with so much approval that the congregation resolved to call him to be their minister. They found, however, to their regret, that he had accepted a call to St Mary's, Glasgow. Afterwards a call was given to the Rev. Thomas Watters, Moffat, who accepted it; but, through the influence of the committee in Edinburgh, he resigned and went to Lauder. In consequence of negotiations with a view to union with Ladhope Free Church, no further steps were taken in the meantime to fill the vacancy, till, these proving fruitless, the congregation gave a call to the Rev. Robert Burns Nicol, which he accepted, and was ordained in 1844.

A site for a church had been secured on the east side of the Market Square at a cost of £120, upon which was erected a building, seated for 500, at a cost of £500. The new church was opened on the third Sabbath of April, 1844, by the Rev. Nathaniel Paterson, the former parish minister, who had also thrown in his lot with the Free Church party. Thus within twelve months the congregation had provided themselves with a church and minister, the manse not being built till 1848.

Mr Nicol's pastorate continued for nearly twenty years, though during that time he was frequently obliged to leave his work and seek rest, and latterly it was found necessary to provide him with the services of an assistant. In 1861 the Rev. James Selkirk was appointed colleague and successor, and occupied that position till Mr Nicol died on the 29th June, 1863. Mr Selkirk continued till 1873, when he

accepted a call from the East Free Church, Aberdeen. During his ministry the need for a larger church had become clamant, but rather than enlarge the old building the congregation resolved to procure a site on which a church could be erected more in accordance with modern requirements. Accordingly, the present site was secured, and, after the settlement of the Rev. William Whyte Smith in 1873, a suitable edifice was erected by Adam Herbertson & Son. In 1875 the church, which was seated for 730 and cost over £5000, was opened for public worship by the Rev. Dr Begg.

After ministering to the congregation with great acceptance for twelve years, Mr Smith received a call from the Newington Free Church, Edinburgh, as successor to Dr Begg, and removed from Galashiels in March, 1885.

The Rev. William Simpson Matheson was ordained to the vacant charge in May of the same year. Mr Matheson is the second son of the Rev. John Matheson of the Presbyterian Church, Hampstead, London, whose ancestors for generations have been ministers in Scotland.

## CHAPTER XIII.

### WEST PARISH CHURCH.

1868 **T**HIS place of worship was erected in 1868 to meet the requirements of the rapidly-increasing population in that part of the town who could not find accommodation in the already over-crowded Parish Church. The movement to erect the church was initiated and carried through by Robert Sanderson, Knowepark; and Arthur Dickson, Wheatlands. The original building cost over £1300, the site being held in free blench. During the earlier period of its existence, when it was a Chapel of Ease to the Parish Church, the pulpit was supplied by the Rev. Kenneth M. Phin, the minister of Galashiels, who preached alternately with his assistant, Rev. R. Rankin, B.D.

On the retirement of Dr Phin in 1870, the congregation, with the concurrence of the Presbytery, supported by the Galashiels Kirk Session, resolved to choose a minister for themselves. They accordingly elected the Rev. Richard Morris Stewart to be their first minister, under whom progress was continued, and in 1873 an effort was made to raise funds towards endowment, which was followed by the erection of the church into a parish. The proposal to mark out and designate a district to be attached thereto Quoad Sacra and to disjoin such district from the parish of Galashiels was approved of by the Presbytery of Selkirk on the 30th December, 1873. The Presbytery also gave their consent to the application which was about to be made to the Teind Court by Robert Sanderson and others, and on the 9th April, 1874, the Lords declared in favour of the petition in all respects. The boundaries of the parish are as follows,—

“Commencing at, but not including, the Victoria Buildings, in the High Street of Galashiels; thence following the boundaries between the counties of Roxburgh and Selkirk, and between the parishes Quoad Civilia of Melrose and Galashiels, to the point where it meets the boundary of the parish Quoad



Sacra of Caddonfoot, near the estate of Torwoodlee; thence along the boundary of Caddonfoot parish, south-westward, to a point in said boundary where a straight line running along the centre of the street, marked D 2 H on a feuing plan of Gala estate, dated 1873, should meet the boundary of Caddonfoot; thence from the point thus fixed along said straight line to the centre of Galashiels mill lade; thence along the centre of the lade to the north corner of Messrs Roberts' property at the Waulkmillhead; thence along the centre of the High Street to the point at Victoria Buildings where the boundary commences, all as delineated in pink on the map submitted to and approved of by the Presbytery."

Along with the minister, the first Session consisted of Robert Sanderson, Knowepark; and Provost Hall, both having previously occupied similar positions in the Galashiels and Ladhope Kirk Sessions.

1883 In 1883 Mr Stewart's health broke down, when he resigned, and the Rev. Alexander Loudon, B.D., Toward, was appointed in his place. Mr Loudon was born at Airdrie in 1856, and received his education in the first instance at Clarkston Academy, entering the University of Glasgow at the close of 1875. He graduated M.A. in 1880, and B.D. in 1883. During that period he acted as missionary for two summers at Carrick Castle, Lochgoil; and Kilmorish, Loch Fyne. In 1883 he was licensed by the Presbytery of Hamilton, and shortly afterwards was appointed minister of Toward, near Innellan. He remained there for the next seven months, when he received and accepted a call to the West Parish, Galashiels. In the opinion of the late Dr Phin, Mr Loudon was one of the ablest and most promising of the younger men in the Established Church, and he has fully sustained his character, the congregation under his ministry having grown from 182 to over 650. In 1887 the Young Men's Guild in connection with the congregation presented him with an illuminated address, and in 1892 the congregation paid him a similar compliment.

In 1884 the trustees, acting on behalf of the congregation, purchased the house on Windyknowe which had been built by Robert Sanderson and Provost Hall for the residence of the former minister, and it became the West Parish manse.

In 1887 the necessity for an enlargement of the church became apparent, and in the following year additional accommodation was provided for about 400 seat-holders. This scheme was further enhanced by the erection of a hall capable of holding over 300, the cost of the two combined being £3000; and a pipe organ was introduced in 1896.

## CHAPTER XIV.

### LADHOPE PARISH CHURCH.

**I**N consequence of the site of the town being situated in the parishes of Galashiels and Melrose, the inhabitants attended the respective parish churches to which they belonged. Those residing in Galashiels parish attended the church of that name, and the Melrose parishioners worshipped in Melrose Abbey.

The original church of Melrose was one of the oldest in Scotland, and occupied a site on a promontory formed by the Tweed about a mile above Dryburgh Abbey on the opposite side of the river. In ancient times, when all the surrounding country was covered with dense forest, the site of the monastery of Old Melrose was said to have presented an open surface of green turf, whence it derived its name, which is compounded of two Celtic words, *mull* signifying bare, and *rhos* a promontory.

In the year 635, Oswald, the Anglo-Saxon King of Northumberland, whose dominions extended from the Humber to the Forth, embraced the religion of the Gospel. He prevailed upon several of the brethren belonging to the Culdee monastery of St Columba in the island of Iona to come and assist in his endeavour to convert his subjects. He built a monastery and established an Episcopal See at Lindisfarne in the neighbourhood of his royal castle at Bamborough, one of the missionaries named Aidan being invested with the united offices of bishop and abbot. In course of time churches were established, one of them being Old Melrose, the first abbot of which was Eata, one of the twelve Saxon disciples of Bishop Aidan. The office of prior was filled by Boisil, better known as St Boswell, whose name is still perpetuated in the locality. In 839 the

monastery was burned by Kenneth II., King of the Scots, and, probably on account of the unsettled state of the country at that time, no effort was made by the monks to rebuild it. Before 875, however, the buildings must have been restored to a certain extent, as in that year it became one of the resting-places of the body of St Cuthbert, who was originally a shepherd in the valley of the Leader. The body of the saint, which was said to be incorrupted, was removed from its sepulchre at Lindisfarne on account of the invasion of the Danes, and was transferred by the monks from place to place for the next seven years; and finally, at the Reformation, it found a resting-place in Durham Cathedral. In 1073, Old Melrose became the abode of a few monks, amongst whom was Turgot the historian, afterwards the Bishop of St Andrews. Acting under orders from their superiors, they unwillingly quitted it in 1075.

Subsequent to this period, the few occasional notes referring to this building speak of it only as a chapel dedicated to St Cuthbert. Before 1136 St Cuthbert's Chapel was a dependency of the priory of Coldingham. In that year King David gave the church at Berwick in exchange for it, and annexed it to the new monastery which he had founded at Melrose. The chapel of St Cuthbert was destroyed by the English in the reign of Robert I., and indulgences were afterwards granted by the Bishop of Galloway and Pope Martin V. to all persons who should make a devout pilgrimage to the chapel of St Cuthbert at Old Melrose, or who should contribute of their substance for rebuilding the same.

Memorials of the existence of the ancient monastery are yet to be found in the local names. The "Chapel Knoll" still marks the site which the building occupied, and "The Haly Wheel" and "The Monk's Ford" are familiar place names on the Tweed in the immediate vicinity.

1136      When King David founded the abbey of Melrose in 1136 it may be conjectured that his intention was to restore the monastery of Old Melrose, but having reason to prefer the present site, he transferred the old name to the new building.

The monks who inhabited the abbey of Melrose belonged to the Cistercian order, and were brought from the abbey of Rievaulx, in Yorkshire. Their number varied from sixty to one hundred, with nearly an equal number of lay brethren. The King conferred upon them the lands of Melrose, Eldun, Dernwic, and Gattonside, with the right of fishing in the Tweed on both sides of the river where it bounded their property, also pasturage and timber in the forests of Selkirk and Traquair, together with the pasturage of the lands that lay between Gala and Leader. Following the King's example, the nobles connected with the Court vied with each other in their gifts to the monastery, which in a short time became possessed of a large revenue. The abbey had the right to have a place for containing sixty cows and a convenient dairy house at Buckholm, and also ground at Whitelee where they might erect stalls for one hundred cows.

Notwithstanding the letters of protection received from King Edward of England, the abbey suffered heavily from the ravages of war. The monks complained to the Scottish king regarding the losses they had sustained, and obtained confirmation of their charters, with permission to cut down timber to the extent of forty oaks in the forest of Selkirk, in order to repair their houses.

In 1322 King Edward invaded Scotland, but was obliged to retire. Intending to lodge at Melrose, he sent three hundred men-at-arms to prepare for his reception, but these were met by Lord Douglas and a party of his followers, who attacked and killed a number of them. For this ill-judged exploit the English pillaged and destroyed the monastery, reducing it to a state of ruin. With a view to its restoration, King Robert Bruce in 1326 granted them a large sum of money, besides augmenting their revenue with considerable gifts. In 1329 he warmly recommended the abbey of Melrose to the favour of his son, intimating his desire that his heart should be entombed within its walls. The King died on the 7th of June following, and having changed his mind regarding the disposal of his heart, he

had directed that it should be deposited in the church of the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem. James, Lord Douglas, undertook to fulfil this request, and with a large retinue set out for Palestine, with the heart of the Bruce enclosed in a silver casket. In passing through Spain he found the king of that country at war with the Saracens, and he indulged both his warlike spirit and religious fervour by taking an active part against the enemies of Christendom, when he lost his life in battle. The remnant of his party returned to Scotland bringing the casket along with them, which was entombed in the abbey of Melrose.

In 1384 the abbey was again burned by Richard II. of England. It is asserted that he intended to spare it, and with this object caused his banner to be affixed to the gate. Some of his army who had remained at Melrose were slain, and in revenge he gave orders for its destruction.

In 1544 it received another hostile visit from the English under Sir Ralph Evers and Sir Brian Latoun, and in the same year it was burned and demolished by an army commanded by the Earl of Hertford, which laid waste the whole of the Merse and Teviotdale. It is probable that on account of the progress of the Reformation and other causes, the abbey was never restored from the state of ruin to which it was then reduced.

At the Reformation the teinds of the parish of Melrose amounted to £135, 9s 4d besides fifty stones of butter from Overside of Colmslie, 340 loads of Kain peats, 340 Kain fowls and twenty-four capons from Threepwood, the reader receiving as his stipend £20 with the kirk lands.

In 1618 a vault of rude masonry was built over part of the nave of the abbey, from which the ancient roof had fallen, and it was then fitted up as a place of worship for the parish.

In the taxt roll of the abbey in 1630, when every pound of free rent was taxed to 6d Scots, Pringle of Gallowshiel for Sellaris Haugh (Cellarer's Haugh?), worth £20, paid £3. Pringle of Torwoodlee along with Cairncross of Colmslie, for the west side of Langlee, Allanshaws, and Wooplaw, worth

£1534, 6s 8d, paid £11, 6s 8d. Pringle of Buckholm, whose lands and teinds were worth £611, 6s 8d, paid £11, 6s 8d. For Williamlaw and teinds, worth £512, 3s 4d, Pringle of Buckholm paid £12, 3s 4d for feu and tack duty. Darling for Appletree-leaves, worth £600, paid £30.

The abbey now belongs to the Buccleuch family. Walter Scott, Earl of Buccleuch, whose forefathers had been hereditary bailies of the regality of Melrose under the abbots, had a considerable grant of land together with the advowson of the Parish Church of Melrose. His descendants, about the beginning of the eighteenth century, acquired by purchase the remainder of the abbey lands included in the lordship of Melrose, which still form part of the extensive possessions owned by that family.

## CHAPTER XV.

**T**HE first Protestant minister in the church of Melrose was James Pont, who studied at St Andrews from 1550 to 1554. He was appointed by the General Assembly, 1562 2nd July, 1562, to minister the Word and sacraments till the next Assembly, when he was appointed minister for Lord Erskine, afterwards Earl of Mar and Regent. The brethren authorised by the Assembly, in forming Presbyteries in 1581, were instructed to take his advice with others in establishing those connected with the diocese of Dunblane. On 26th June, 1595, the Assembly nominated him with others,

“To sitt in Striveling, and call before them the bretheren that has delapidat thair benefices within the bounds of Strivelingshyre, Stratherne, Cliddisdaill, Dumbartane, Renfrew, Lennox, Kyle, Carrick, Cunighame, Galloway, and Nithesdaill.”

He also held the office of Commissary of Dunblane from 11th July, 1598, till his death in July, 1602.

He was succeeded by John Knox, A.M., eldest son of William Knox, minister of Cockpen, and grand-nephew of the Reformer. He took his degree at the University of St Andrews in 1575, and was minister at Lauder in the following year. He 1582 was a member of the Assemblies in 1581 and 1582, and in the latter year was translated to Melrose.

James Pont was one of those who declined subscribing the articles written by Secretary Maitland in 1585, and was a member of at least twelve out of the twenty-six Assemblies during his incumbency. He was Moderator of the Synod in 1586 when they declared there was no difference of opinion among them regarding the policy of the Church. He was also one of the Commissioners named by the Privy Council, 6th March, 1589, for the preservation of true religion in the Sheriffdom of Edinburgh. In 1596 he was one of the Commissioners for the



south appointed to meet daily with the Presbytery of Edinburgh and consult respecting the means necessary for opposing the measures of the excommunicated popish Earls and their supporters. In the Assembly of 1601 he refused to vote for the translation of ministers recommended by the King. When nominated Moderator of Presbytery by the Assembly of 1606, the Presbytery were charged by the Privy Council to receive him as such within twenty-four hours after notice under pain of rebellion. He was bold enough to refuse the office, and was therefore put to the horn. Again in favour, in 1608 he was appointed to visit the kirks of Annandale, Ewesdale, and Eskdale, with the Archbishop of Glasgow. He was also a member of the conference at Falkland in May, 1609. At the Assembly in 1617 he had the courage to admonish the Archbishop of St Andrews for his doctrine, and when obedience to the articles of Perth was urged at the Synod in 1618, he exhorted the brethren to stand to the liberty and government of the Church as established before the appointment of bishops. He died in 1623, aged about sixty-eight, being one of those mentioned by Livingstone as "eminent for grace, gifts, faithfulness, and success."

The next minister was Thomas Forrester, A.M., who attained his degree at the University of St Andrews in 1608. On the 10th March, 1623, he was proposed by the Archbishop of Glasgow for Ayr, and the Session agreed to send a Commissioner to show "that he was not a meet man to be minister among them," yet he was presented by James VI. on the 10th April, but no further proceedings appear to have been taken. In 1634 the parish, covering an area of seven miles by four and containing about two thousand communicants, had a decret of augmentation, and the Archbishops having declared it expedient, provision was made for a second minister, but this proposal was not carried out.

Mr Forrester was a man of extraordinary character. While the attempt of Charles I. to complete an Episcopal system of Church government in Scotland was the subject of

violent and universal discontent, at least in the southern part of the kingdom, Forrester appears to have beheld it with the utmost gratulation and triumph, giving way to his feelings in occasional satires upon those who opposed the Court. His vein of poetry is allowed to have been of no mean order, and even now, when many of the allusions are unintelligible, its poignancy is sufficiently obvious.

Eventually he was accused of avowing

“That the service book was better than preaching, that preaching was no essential part of God’s worship, that all prayers should be read, that he made his altar and rails himself, stood within and reached the elements to those who stood without, avowed Christ’s presence there, but whether sacramentally or by way of consubstantiation, he wist not. He maintained Christ’s universal redemption, and that all in the service book was good, he used to sit at preaching and prayer, baptised in his own house, made a way through the church for his kine and sheep, made a wagon of the old Communion table to lead in his peats, declared that to make the Sabbath a moral precept was to Judaize, that upon it it was lawful to work, and ‘having but one hutt of corne in his barneyard, would needs show his Christian liberty by causing his servants to cart it in upon that holy day,’ maintained that our confession of faith was faithless, kept no thanksgiving after Communion, and affirmed the Reformation to have brought more damage to the Church in one day than the Pope and his faction had done in a thousand years.

On December 11th, 1638, it is recorded that ‘Thomas Foster’s proces was given in containing many grosse and blasphemous poynts, and, after the calling of the rolles, the Assembly voited that such a minister should be put off in a singular manner, and deposed from the ministerie.’”

The reverend gentleman indulged himself in a characteristic revenge. He composed a mock Litany containing thirty-eight verses, in which the most respected men of the day and the most solemn of their proceedings were profanely ridiculed, concluding with the two following stanzas,—

“From noble beggars, beggar makers,  
 From all bold and blood undertakers,  
 From hungry catchpole’s knighted loons,  
 From perfumed puppies and babouns,  
 From caterpillars, moths, and rats,  
 Horse-leeches, State blood-sucking bats,  
 From such mad pranks of Catherus,  
 From whom, good Lord, deliver us.

From Sandy Hago, and Sandy Gibsone,  
 Sandy Kinnear, and Sandy Johnstone,  
 Whose knaverie made them Covenanters  
 To keep their necks out of the halters.  
 Of falsehood, gried, what you'll name,  
 Of treacherie they think na shame;  
 Yet these, the mates of Catherus,  
 And all the knock-down race of Knoxes  
 From whom, good Lord, deliver us."

Mr Forrester was succeeded by Alexander Scott, A.M., who  
 1640 was admitted to Melrose in 1640, and died the same year.

The next incumbent was David Fletcher, A.M., who  
 studied at the University of St Andrews and graduated  
 in 1635. On the 22nd May, 1635, he was elected by the Town  
 Council of Edinburgh to the collegiate charge of St Cuthbert's.  
 In 1638 he was assaulted and maltreated by several women for  
 hesitating to obey the populace of the day. He was deposed  
 by the Commission of Assembly on the 1st January, 1639, for  
 declining the General Assembly at Glasgow the preceding  
 year and for reading and defending the service book, but the  
 deposition was recalled by the following General Assembly.  
 He was translated to Melrose, and admitted on the 4th February,  
 1641 1641. When elected to St Cuthbert's he was zealous for  
 Episcopacy, but when he came to Melrose he turned Pres-  
 byterian. After the restoration of Charles II. he was made  
 Bishop of Argyll through the influence of his brother, Sir John  
 Fletcher, the King's advocate. It was during his incumbency  
 that the statues in Melrose Abbey were destroyed. After  
 leaving Melrose he still retained the parish in conjunction till  
 his death, which occurred in March, 1665, aged about sixty.

Alexander Bisset, A.M., who was the next minister,  
 studied at the University of St Andrews in 1656, and was  
 licensed by that Presbytery in 1661. He was presented by  
 the master of the New College of St Andrews to Tynningham  
 on the 24th September, and ordained on the 20th November,  
 1663. He obtained the living of Melrose from the patron,  
 1665 John, Earl of Haddington in 1665, and died in 1689.

## CHAPTER XVI.

THE next minister was Robert Wilson, A.M., who took his degree at the University of Edinburgh on the 13th of June, 1651. He was called to Melrose and 1690 admitted 9th September, 1690. He was a member of Assembly in 1692, and died 5th March, 1713, in his eightieth year.

During the ministry of Mr Wilson, it is stated in the Session records that when he came to Melrose elders were appointed to visit the town during the time of service to see that there was no drinking or profanation of the Sabbath. In common with the elders belonging to the Kirk of Scotland in those days, the Melrose Session acted faithfully in regard to their duties, as William Mein, blacksmith at Newstead, learned, when he broke the Fast Day by working at his trade. His wife also got into trouble over the affair by scolding the elder who had been making inquiry into the circumstance. Sometimes the parishioners themselves lent their aid and reported any occurrence that savoured of scandal. As Robert Mercer was on his way to the church one Sabbath morning, he observed some clothes hanging on the dykes at Easter Langlee and Westhouses. Communicating his discovery to the Session, they had some of the people of these hamlets summoned before them in connection with the affair. Marion Wilson appeared from Easter Langlee and explained that she had a web of linen out for several nights together and had not taken it in on the Sabbath. Another female from Westhouses confessed that she had forgotten to take in some clothes that were hung out to dry, and both were privately rebuked. Henry Pringle and his wife received the usual admonition and rebuke for quarrelling with each other, Sarah Renwick also suffered a like punishment for scolding her neighbours, while Robert Clark was handed over to the magistrate because he had not appeared before the Session when

requested. Helen Lithgow, spouse of Peter Moffat, in Threepwood, occasioned some trouble by calling one of the elders a knave when he had spoken to her about her conduct in cursing and swearing. She was summoned in the usual fashion, but,

“ Being very obstinate, the Session thought fit to appoint Buckholme, Thomas Darling, Thomas Laidlay, James Thin, John Moodie, John Riddell, and James Hunter to meet on Monday at Threepwood, to pray together for her, and to deal with her for her amendment.”

It may be presumed that the appearance of this formidable deputation had the desired effect, as her name does not again appear. Robert Watherstone in Colmslie was found guilty of setting up a few sheaves on a Sabbath morning, and after promising to walk more Christianly in future, was rebuked and dismissed. But the hardest case of all was that of John Turner, in Hagburn, who had given offence by carrying a burden upon his back on the Lord's-day. John appeared and explained that the burden in question was only a half-peck of oatmeal, in a case of great necessity his family were in, through his not being able to get home on the Saturday night. In consideration of this being John's first offence, and upon promising not to do the like again, he was rebuked before the Session and absolved.

For some time Mr Wilson was provided with an assistant and successor in the person of Adam Milne, A.M. He took his degree at the University of Edinburgh on the 7th July, 1698, was licensed by the Presbytery of Chirnside on 24th September, 1706, being called to Melrose, and ordained  
1711 colleague and successor on the 8th May, 1711. He died on the 8th June, 1747, aged about sixty-seven, in the thirty-seventh year of his ministry. It is stated in the Session records of date 11th June, 1747, that

“ Our worthy laborious pastor, who to the great grief and universal loss of the congregation departed this life, the 8th instant, was this day buried at three o' the afternoon.”

Mr Milne was credited with being a man of considerable talent, and he wrote a history of the parish of Melrose, which was published in 1743.

He was succeeded by James Brown, A.M., the youngest son of the Rev. John Brown, minister of Abercorn. Mr Brown was presented to the living at Melrose by the Lady  
1747 Isabella Scott in July, 1747, and ordained on the 10th February, 1748. He interested himself in the temporal affairs of his parishioners by getting a bleach-field established at Melrose for the purpose of encouraging the manufacture of linen in the parish. It was proposed to promote him to South Leith in 1765, but he was translated to New Greyfriars', Edinburgh, on the 5th May, 1767. In the following year he was removed to the collegiate charge of the New North Church. He was elected Moderator of the General Assembly in 1777, and died on the 6th May, 1786, in the sixty-second year of his age, and thirty-ninth of his ministry.

It is recorded concerning him that "he was distinguished not more by his majestic appearance than by his pastoral excellence, powerful reasoning, and singular attention to the charitable institutions of the city." He took a great interest in the improvement of the translations and paraphrases of Scripture, and was appointed in 1776 convener of the Assembly's Committee for that purpose, and had the satisfaction in 1781 of seeing the selections approved of.

Mr Brown was succeeded by Fredrick Maclagan, son of Alexander Maclagan, minister of Little Dunkeld, and who was licensed by the Presbytery of Dunkeld in 1760. He became assistant at Alva, and was presented to Melrose by Henry,  
1768 Duke of Buccleuch, and ordained 6th March, 1768. Rumours arose regarding his conduct, and a libel was raised charging him with adultery, from which he was assoilzied by the Presbytery. He, however, found it expedient in 1788 to retire, and he died at Hayfield, Stirlingshire, on the 12th August, 1818.

The next incumbent was George Thomson, who was licensed by the Presbytery of Dunblane in 1786, and was called to Melrose and ordained assistant and successor on the 23rd  
1788 October, 1788. An augmentation of stipend having been asked

by the senior minister, Mr Thomson lodged a claim, that as he performed the whole work, his case should be considered in the event of the Court granting the request. Though doubts were entertained regarding the competency of his claim, effect was given to his application, and the whole augmentation was granted to him in 1797. During his incumbency the Parish Church was erected on the Weir Hill. This was done at the particular desire of the Duke of Buccleuch in order to preserve the appearance of the venerable abbey, within which divine service had hitherto been held. The foundation stone of the new church was laid by James Pringle of Torwoodlee, in 1808, and the building was completed in 1810. Mr Thomson died in 1836, in his seventy-seventh year, and forty-eighth of his ministry.

Despite the fact that Mr Thomson received the augmentation, his income was small, and, having a wife and family, the hardship of his case became a subject of public conversation. This reached the ears of the Rev. Dr Johnston, North Leith, who immediately collected a considerable sum, which he enclosed to Mr Thomson in a letter. Mr Thomson instantly replied and expressed his grateful acknowledgment, but requested the Doctor to return to the donors every farthing which had been subscribed on his behalf, as he and his family were content with their humble fare. Besides a spirit of independence, guileless simplicity was another trait in his character. On one occasion he met a person on the road travelling towards Lauder, who was a total stranger, and Mr Thomson requested him to carry his watch to the watchmaker there for repair. As might have been expected, neither watch nor messenger was ever more heard of. He married Margaret, daughter of the Rev. Robert Gillon of Lessudden, who died 11th June, 1831. One of their sons, George Thomson, was a preacher, and for some time tutor in the family of Sir Walter Scott. From his eccentricity and kindness of heart, Thomson is understood to have been the original of "Dominie Sampson."

The next minister was William Murray, a native of Selkirk-

shire, who studied at the University of Edinburgh, and became tutor in the family of Major Hope Johnstone. He was licensed by the Presbytery of Langholm, and presented to the living of Melrose by Walter Francis, Duke of Buccleuch, and ordained 10th June, 1836. He died on the 13th September, 1865, in his sixty-seventh year, and thirtieth of his ministry.

Shortly after the induction of Mr Murray, it was found that the Parish Church was too small to contain the parishioners. This was principally owing to the growth of the population in that division of Galashiels comprised within Melrose parish. To those residing in the western portion of the parish, the distance from the church had proved extremely inconvenient. In these circumstances it was considered preferable to erect another church in a more suitable locality, rather than enlarge the church at Melrose. Accordingly, on the 18th May, 1837, the foundation-stone of Ladhope Church was laid with masonic honours, and  
 1838 on the 16th July, 1838, it was opened for public worship by the Rev. Archibald Binnie, of Lady Yester's Church, Edinburgh. The church cost £1400, which was defrayed by subscription, the Duke of Buccleuch contributing £105, besides paying the annual feu duty of £5. This was afterwards reduced to a nominal sum. For some months after the church was opened the pulpit was occupied by probationers,  
 1839 till, on the 21st March, 1839, the Rev. W. P. Falconer was chosen as minister. He was ordained by the Presbytery of Selkirk on the 13th September following, the Rev. W. Murray of Melrose, conducting the services. At the conclusion, the Presbytery and friends were entertained to dinner in the Commercial Inn, where upwards of sixty gentlemen attended, it being recorded that "a most agreeable evening was spent, in perfect harmony with the solemnities of the day."

Mr Falconer was born at Old Monkland, and studied at Glasgow University. He was first employed as assistant in his native place, and afterwards as missionary at Kilmarnock, where he was instrumental in the formation of the congregation of St Andrew's.



At the Disruption in 1843 tempting offers were made to Mr Falconer to remain in the Established Church; but he declined, and, along with 371 out of a total of 420 persons whose names were on the Communion roll, left Ladhope and formed Ladhope Free Church.

For a few years afterwards there was no settled minister in Ladhope, the pulpit being supplied with preachers. The 1846 Rev. James Smith received a call and was ordained in 1846. Before coming to Galashiels Mr Smith had been in connection with the Irish Presbyterian Church, having been ordained to the charge at Westport, on the west coast of Connaught, which he resigned in 1845. During the course of his ministry in Galashiels, he gradually gathered a congregation around him, and was presented with a purse of sovereigns as a token of regard for the interest and attention he showed in their welfare. In 1857 he received a call from Greyfriars', Aberdeen, which he accepted. He remained there till 1862, when Lord Aberdeen presented him to the vacant charge of Ellon. During his sojourn in that parish he had conferred upon him the dignity of Doctor of Divinity, and died there in December, 1871, aged sixty-six years.

When Mr Smith left Ladhope he was succeeded by the Rev. Robert Blackstock, who belonged to Dumfriesshire. He came from Larbert to Galashiels, and was ordained on the 25th 1858 June, 1858. There being no manse in connection with the church at that time, Mr Scott of Gala offered the congregation a free site and a donation of £25, provided they commenced building within six months. The offer was accepted, and the manse was erected in 1860.

Under the ministry of Mr Blackstock the growth of the congregation was quite phenomenal. When he came to Ladhope there were 240 members, and in the latter years of his ministry the number had increased to over 1000. In 1868 this growth necessitated an enlargement of the church, which was completed at a cost of £700. In 1874 an organ was introduced, and as instrumental music in divine service was at that time con-

sidered by many a dangerous innovation, over one hundred members left the church on that account.

During his ministry in Ladhope, Mr Blackstock studiously refrained from taking any part in political or other questions which from time to time stir public feeling. He kept close to what he considered the proper work of the ministry. While his pulpit duties were not neglected, he considered his principal field of labour lay in the homes of the people. He was widely esteemed, and his popularity extended far beyond the bounds of his own congregation. He set his heart on Church extension, and was earnestly desirous of seeing another church in the parish. In matters educational he was more successful, and it was principally to his efforts that Ladhope School owed its existence.

The parish of Ladhope, which was erected *Quoad Sacra* by the Court of Teinds on 11th July, 1855, was taken wholly from the parish of Melrose during the pastorate of Mr Blackstock. The petition presented to the Court was at the instance of William Brunton of Ladhope, John Borthwick of Crookston; Robert Hall, builder; Thomas Anderson, millwright; John Roberts, manufacturer; David Ballantyne, manufacturer; John Hall, builder, all of Galashiels; the Rev. Kenneth M'Leay Phin, minister of the parish of Galashiels; William Rutherford, writer, there; and Professor Robertson, then convener of the Endowment Committee of the Church of Scotland.

The endowment consists of a stipend of £120 to the minister, and there is a surplus of securities amounting to £6, 6s 5d and casualties valued at £8, 17s 10d for the support of fabrics, which, it was estimated, might amount to £12 per annum. The securities consist of feu duties and casualties of superiority in Darling's Haugh, provided by local parties and the Endowment Committee of the Church, also an annual sum of £3 payable by Mr Borthwick of Crookston.

The boundaries of the district disjoined from Melrose and now forming the parish of Ladhope *Quoad Sacra* are described in the decree of the Teind Court as follows,—

"Beginning at the junction of the water of Gala with the river Tweed, and down said river Tweed to the point where the water of Allan or Elwand joins it; thence up the said water of Allan or Elwand to the source thereof; and thence in a straight line to that point where the counties of Berwick, Midlothian, and Roxburgh meet; thence along the boundary line between the said counties of Midlothian and Roxburgh, and between the parishes of Melrose and Stow to that point in the said water of Gala where these counties meet the county of Selkirk; and thence along the boundary line between the counties of Selkirk and Roxburgh, and between the parishes of Melrose and Stow, and Melrose and Galashiels, to the junction of the said water of Gala with the said river Tweed, at the point where the boundary commenced, but excepting from the said boundary that part of the farm of Easter Langlee belonging to the Right Hon. Lord Somerville, then occupied by G. & J. Bruce."

In 1881 Mr Blackstock accepted a call to Lilliesleaf, and before leaving Galashiels he was honoured by a great public gathering in the Volunteer Hall, when he was presented with a silver salver and a purse containing 200 sovereigns. He died at Lilliesleaf on the 24th January, 1888, in the sixty-first year of his age.

The next incumbent was the Rev. Robert Borland, who was 1881 elected on the 19th December, 1881. In June, 1883, he accepted a call to the kirk and parish of Yarrow.

Mr Borland was succeeded by the Rev. W. C. Callander from Lochrutton, who was inducted to Ladhope on the 21st 1884 January, 1884. During the ministry of Mr Callander large halls have been erected for the accommodation of the various organisations in connection with the church. The cost of these amounted to £2240. The halls were opened in the month of January, 1887, and within the following year the debt was paid off. Since these facilities have been provided, there has been a marked increase in congregational activity, the minister's Bible class being now the largest in the town, numbering 236 young men and women.



REV. DR BLAIR

REV. JAMES SPENCE

REV. DR HENDERSON

REV. W. WHYTE SMITH

REV. ROBERT BLACKSTOCK

in Douglas, Isle of Man. He continued there for the succeeding nineteen years, when failing health compelled him to resign, and he returned to Edinburgh, where he died on the 7th March, 1896.

When Mr Fettes left, the congregation gave a call to the Rev. James Spence, who was born at Edinburgh in 1830, and received his education at the High School and University. In 1862 he was elected minister of Stobhill Free Church, near 1866 Gorebridge, and four years afterwards came to Ladhope Free Church.

In 1883 the congregation resolved to erect a new church, and a feu in Bridge Street was obtained. The church was opened by the Rev. Dr Andrew Bonar on the 1st October, 1885. It was built by Robert Hall & Co., Galashiels, and cost, including the site, over £5600.

The history of Ladhope Free Church was published in 1895 under the auspices of the congregational Literary Association.

## CHAPTER XVIII.

### GLASSITE CHURCH.

**T**HIS church was one of the many formed during the latter half of the eighteenth century, and is known by the name of its founder, John Glass. It was stationed originally  
1768 at Darnick about the year 1768.

The elders at Darnick were James Craw and David Byres. Mr Craw came from Forfarshire, and was probably connected with the church first formed by Mr Glass in that county. Mr Byres was much esteemed in the church. His portrait by Skirving still hangs in the Elders' Room in Edinburgh. In 1768 the number of members on the roll was twenty-five, besides a considerable auditory. About the year 1775 the church was  
1775 transferred to Galashiels, the membership at that date having increased to fifty, twenty-seven males and twenty-three females. At that time the elders were James Craw and William White; and among the members were to be found a number of the oldest and most respected names in the town, such as Sanderson, Paterson, Gill, Ballantyne, Dickson, &c. Amongst the elders who officiated in latter years were Messrs Watson, Paton, Miller, and Sime; two of whom have their names perpetuated in Paton Street and Sime Place. In 1842 the church was removed from the Old Town to Botany Lane, where a new place of worship was erected. In recent years the congregation has had no stated place of meeting, and the few remaining members resident in Galashiels occasionally attend the services of their denomination in Edinburgh.

## CHAPTER XIX.

### BAPTIST CHURCH.

1782 **A**S the result of a change of opinion regarding Church order and the administration of the ordinances on the part of Archibald Cochrane, Henry Watson, and William Johnstone, this congregation had its origin in 1782. In order to find congenial company, they travelled to Edinburgh to attend the church now situated in Bristo Place, where, on profession of their faith, they were baptised and received into the membership. Continuing to reside in Galashiels, they, along with others like-minded, were wont to unite in worship and mutual exhortation. The elders and brethren from Edinburgh frequently visited them, and in this manner the doctrines they professed became known and attracted adherents. At length in 1804 Adam Cochrane and William Berry were called as pastors, and William Johnstone and James Leitch were appointed to the office of deacon. Originally the congregation met for worship in the Cloth Hall, but in the course of time they erected a place of worship at the west end of Overhaugh Street, which was utilised during the week as a day school. In 1842 this building was disposed of, and a chapel was erected in Stirling Street. At that date there were forty members, the pastor being James Leitch, who had been called in 1811. As time went on the membership increased, till in 1870 it was found necessary to erect the present enlarged edifice at a cost of £1000, which sum was almost entirely defrayed by the congregation. At that time the membership had increased to 145. The pastors were Alexander Thomson and John Horsburgh.

The church originally was a Scotch Baptist Church, and, in accordance with its constitution, there was a plurality of pastors. This was continued till 1875, when it was deemed advisable to have a salaried pastor, who could devote

all his time to the work of the ministry. A difference of opinion regarding this step caused a secession, and about seventy members, together with Pastors Thomson and Morton, left the congregation. Those remaining gave a call to the Rev. Charles Hill from Dunfermline, who became pastor and continued so till his death in September, 1880. The following year the Rev. D. Ritchie Key was appointed pastor, and he ministered till 1884, when he resigned his connection with the Baptist denomination and joined the United Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Henry Gray from West Hartlepool succeeded, but retired in 1887. The Rev. J. Bell Johnstone was the next pastor, who laboured with great acceptance for eight and a half years. When he came to Galashiels the membership was about 120, and on his leaving for Worcester 1896 in 1896, it had increased to over 300.

Mr Johnstone was succeeded by the Rev. Robert Clark from Belfast, who was ordained to the ministry in 1887.

The undernoted list gives, so far as available, the names of the various pastors, together with the dates of their admission and retirement, up to 1875, when the secession took place. Adam Cochrane, 1804; William Berry, 1804; James Leitch, 1811 to 1845; Walter Murray — to 1844; George Paterson, 1845 to 1863; James Berry, 1845 to 1847; John Cowan, 1847 to 1850; David Wallace, April to August, 1847; Alexander Thomson, 1852 to 1875; John Horsburgh, 1866 to 1873; Andrew Morton, 1874 to 1875.

The following is a condensed narrative regarding the manner and methods of worship observed by this denomination in its earlier days. It is from the pen of Dr Somerville, one of the present deacons, and appeared in the *Scottish Baptist Magazine* for June, 1896,—

“The Sabbath service began at 10.30 with praise. There being no fixed precentor, various brethren occasionally officiated, and the variety of musical gifts exhibited by the different leaders was not uninteresting. There was one esteemed brother in particular who indulged in a freedom from established rules, both on account of the variety and duration of his notes, that sometimes excited wonder if not admiration. After the singing, prayer was offered, being led by any brother the pastor selected. Again praise followed, at the conclusion of which another brother supplicated for a blessing upon the



reading of the Scriptures. The reading was done systematically, and occupied a considerable time. One chapter was read in consecutive order from the Old and New Testaments, and they evidently believed that all Scripture was profitable, as there was no omission of those particular passages which are generally considered unsuitable for public edification. The reading was done by one of the deacons, at the close of which a hymn was sung, and another brother was requested to pray for a blessing upon the ordinance of exhortation. Opportunity was then offered to any of the brethren to take part in the proceedings. As there was no previous arrangement, it sometimes occurred that there was no response. In these circumstances, with the view of filling up the time, one of the brethren would proceed to paraphrase a psalm, and after the exhortation the morning service came to a conclusion.

An interval of an hour followed, and, as many members did not go home, there was provided what was termed the 'love feast.' In the olden time porter was the beverage, but latterly tea and coffee with bread and cheese were substituted. This meal afforded opportunity for indulging in pleasant social intercourse, the female portion generally indulging in a criticism of the merits or demerits of the exhortation to which they had recently listened.

The afternoon service commenced at 1.30, and the same order was observed as in the morning, but instead of an exhortation from a brother the pastor delivered a sermon. At the conclusion the collection was taken, out of which fell to be defrayed all the necessary expenses in connection with the maintenance of the church, but the greater part was devoted to relieving the necessities of the poorer brethren. This was done in a characteristic spirit. The name of the recipient was not recorded; 'to a poor brother' was considered a sufficient entry in the cash book. After the collection was taken the Lord's Supper was observed in all its primitive simplicity, and the service closed with the benediction.

The church meetings were also characterised by plain speaking and faithful dealing. Some of the brethren had exalted ideas regarding the duty of faithfulness, and sometimes exercised it more than was wise. Unselfishness was one of their strong points. They could tolerate without flinching the beam in their own eye, but were so concerned about the mote in that of their neighbour that they could find no peace or rest till they had an opportunity of extracting it. Strict discipline prevailed, not only were moral failings severely rebuked, but absence from the wonted pew was quickly noted and dealt with, one brother considering it a great aggravation of the offence, and lamenting that they had actually been attending another church. Deputations were sent to admonish erring brethren, but it was not always the best method, as out of one case of discipline sometimes several would arise. Some brethren were unduly dictatorial and laid down what they considered the law in a manner that admitted of no difference of opinion. On one occasion of this nature one worthy brother was stung into observing, 'There were more Popes in Galashiels than have been seen in Rome for a century.'"

When the minority of the members decided to secede from the chapel in Stirling Street in 1875, they rented the old Bridge Inn assembly room, where for some time they met for worship and mutual edification. In the course of time steps were taken to erect a suitable place of worship. A site having been secured in Victoria Street, a church was built, and opened on 15th July, 1883, which is known as the Victoria Street Baptist Church.

At the present date the pastors are Messrs Alexander Thomson, Henry Fleming, and David Craighead. The membership is about 150, and there are several organisations in connection with the congregation.

## CHAPTER XX.

### EAST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

1805 **T**HE congregation now represented by the above body was formed on the 12th August, 1805. The denomination with which it was originally connected came into existence in 1733 under the leadership of the Erskines and others. It did not originate in any forced settlement in the Parish Church like many of the Secession churches, but in what was considered the doctrinal defection of the Church of Scotland. Previous to the rise of the local congregation, associate congregations had been formed at Stow and Selkirk, to which the Seceders in Galashiels had connected themselves. This arrangement proving very inconvenient, the idea of forming a church at Galashiels was mooted on the occasion of a baptism at Claydubs. Application was made to the Burgher Presbytery that the members petitioning should be disjoined from Stow and Selkirk, and formed into a separate congregation at Galashiels. This having been agreed to, a supply of ministers was readily granted by the Presbytery, the first sermon being preached in a dwelling-house at Buckholmside by Mr Elder of Newtown. It was found that the new congregation started with a membership of two hundred, fifty being from Stow, and one hundred and fifty from Selkirk.

1806 The first church and manse were erected in the Old Town in 1806, a large part of the work in the way of quarrying and carting the material being done by the members themselves. What the building cost there is no record to show, but when the work was completed it was found that they were encumbered with a considerable amount of debt.

In 1806 the congregation gave a call to the Rev. George Lawson, son of the Rev. Dr Lawson of Selkirk, who accepted the invitation, and was ordained on the 4th November of the

same year. Two years afterwards he received a call from Stow, which he declined; but in the following year he received another call from Bolton, in Lancashire, which he accepted. He afterwards went to Kilmarnock, and then to Selkirk, where he died in 1849.

When Mr Lawson left, steps were taken to secure a  
1810 successor, and on the 29th August, 1810, the Rev. James Henderson, from the first Burgher congregation in Stirling, was ordained. The stipend promised to Mr Henderson was £110, but this sum proved more than the limited means of the congregation could afford, and years elapsed before he received more than £100. In June, 1814, he married Miss Isabella Hay, sister of Mr Hay, the associate minister at Stow. In 1817 Mr Henderson opened the first Sabbath school in Galashiels, which was largely attended by children belonging to his own and other congregations. In 1830 the total income of the church was £126, 19s. 11½d, and of that amount Mr Henderson received £96, 13s. At this time the congregation was largely composed of farmers and their servants, some of them having to travel a long distance. They came from Darnick, Lindean, Caberston, Craiglatch, Langshaw, &c. In order to enable Mr Henderson to undertake his pastoral duties with comfort, a pony was provided, but, being an indifferent horseman, the minister and "Donald" did not always see eye to eye regarding the particular road that was to be travelled. It was nothing uncommon for the minister to walk home, a messenger being sent to bring back the pony.

In 1836 the congregation was enabled to implement their bargain by paying the minister for the first time his full salary of £110. At the same time the precentor and beadle, who hitherto had performed their several duties as a labour of love, were rewarded with the sum of £4, 10s and £3 respectively.

At a congregational meeting held in January, 1844, a committee was appointed to secure a site for a new church, and they were charged with the condition that they were not to increase the existing debt of £433 by more than £300.

A site was secured in High Street, the church was erected, and, in the month of November, 1844, Mr Henderson preached his last sermon in the old church. On the following Sabbath the new building was opened for public worship. The conditions imposed on the committee regarding the increase of debt had evidently been forgotten, as the new church cost over £1400, thus making a debt of £1200. At this time the University of St Andrews conferred the degree of Doctor of Divinity upon Mr Henderson, the ground for this distinction being the merits of a volume of sermons which he had published.

In 1847 the union of the Secession and Relief Churches took place, the combined body being known as the United Presbyterian Church. In the same year Mr Henderson's stipend was increased to £120, the beadle and precentor also having their emoluments raised to £6 and £8 respectively. In 1853 a meeting of Session and managers was held for the purpose of considering a recommendation from the Synod that Dr Henderson's stipend be raised to £150. At this meeting a letter from the Doctor was read to the following effect,—

“Brethren, it is inadvisable that you should move further in the matter, as I feel that advanced age and increasing infirmities render it necessary for the well-being of the congregation that I should have a helper and successor in the ministry, by which you may find your resources taxed to the full, without increasing my present stipend.”

1854 This resulted in a call being given in 1854 to the Rev. Alexander Oliver, the arrangement being that Dr Henderson should receive £120 with the manse, and Mr Oliver £140.

On the 5th November, 1858, the public were startled by the sudden death of Dr Henderson, who had passed away during the night.

Thus departed a remarkable and admirable man, whose intellect and worth had for nearly half a century glowed with a steady and ever-growing lustre. Dr John Brown, writing to Dr Cairns, thus characterised him,—

“He was in the true sense what Chalmers used to call a man of ‘wecht.’ His mind acted by its sheer absolute power; it seldom made an effort, it was the hydraulic pressure, harmless, manageable but irresistible, not the perilous

compression of steam. . . . His expressions were clear and quiet to a degree that a coarse and careless man, spoiled by the violence and noise from other pulpits, might think insipid. But let him see and feel the solemnising commanding power of that large, square, leonine countenance, the broad massive frame, as of a compressed Hercules. . . . Dr Henderson was peculiarly a preacher for preachers, as Spenser is a poet for poets."

Dr Henderson had laboured under that form of heart disease termed *angina pectoris*, and had for over twenty years lived on the verge of instant death. During his latter years his health had improved. This sense of bodily peril gave to his features a look of suffering, and he used to say he carried his grave always beside him. In a letter to an acquaintance soon after the death of his friend, Dr Brown of Edinburgh, he said,—

"His removal is another memento to me that my own course is drawing near to an end. Nearly all the contemporaries and the friends of my youth are now gone before me. Well I may say in the words of your poet Vaughan,

‘They are all gone into the world of light,  
And I alone sit lingering here;  
Their very memory is calm and bright,  
And my sad thoughts doth clear.’"

Mr Oliver succeeded to the charge, and in 1861 the stipend was increased to £200. Under his ministrations the church flourished, and in 1864, to their great regret, he accepted a call to Regent Place, Glasgow. After leaving Galashiels, Mr Oliver received the degree of D.D., and in 1894 he was Moderator of the United Presbyterian Synod.

1865 A call was given to the Rev. John Pollock from Glasgow, who was ordained on the 12th September, 1865. Under his ministry the debt upon the congregation was steadily reduced, till in 1866 it amounted to £400. In 1867 the church was enlarged and a hall provided at a cost of over £1500. In 1873 the congregation found themselves free from debt for the first time in the history of the church. A new manse was erected in Abbotsford Road at a cost of £2623, 7s in 1877, and in 1894 a mission hall was erected in Halliburton Place in connection with the church.

## CHAPTER XXI.

### WEST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

**O**RIGINALLY this congregation was connected with the body styled the Relief Church, which came into existence in 1752, and was known by that name till 1847, when it became merged in the United Presbyterian Church.

In the month of October, 1836, the Relief Presbytery of Kelso appointed Mr Durie of Earlston to preach in Galashiels with the view of erecting a station in connection with the Relief Synod. The service was held in the Subscription School, and the result encouraged them to persevere in the attempt to raise a congregation. It was agreed to rent the school, and Mr Durie and Mr Jarvie of Kelso opened the place for public worship. After maintaining these services on Sabbath evenings for some  
1837 time, in 1837 subscriptions amounting to £36 were raised for the purpose of fitting up the Bridge Inn assembly room as a place of worship, to be called the Relief Hall. About the middle of November in the same year it was formally opened by Mr Durie, when the membership numbered fifty-six. A call was then given to a Mr Kerr, who declined, and on the 19th June, 1838, the Rev. Robert Blair accepted a call, the stipend being fixed at £80, while the emoluments of the precentor and the church officer were £3 and £1, 5s respectively.

Mr Blair was born at Glasgow on the 9th April, 1816. Having finished his curriculum, he went in 1831 to study theology under Professor Thomson of Paisley. At the age of twenty-one he was licensed, when he received calls from three congregations, but accepted that from Galashiels, and was ordained on the 17th October, 1838. For years the congregation had an arduous struggle, their penury proving almost an insuperable barrier to their progress. They experienced great difficulty in making ends meet, and in this they were not always successful.

After the services had been held in the Relief Hall for a short time, the congregation erected a church in High Street in 1839, containing 524 sittings. The building was opened for public worship in the same year, at a total cost, including site, of £824, 16s 9d. A manse costing £700 was erected in the Windyknowe, and it required the exercise of no little self-denial on the part of the congregation before the debt was finally cleared off.

In 1875 Mr Blair received the degree of D.D. from an American college, and in the fortieth year of his ministry he was publicly presented with a purse containing 200 sovereigns subscribed by the congregation and friends. In 1880 the church was rebuilt and enlarged and a commodious hall added, at a total cost of £2139. On the same day that the church was opened the congregation were called upon to follow the remains of Dr Blair to his last resting-place in the Eastlands Cemetery, where they have erected a tribute to his memory.

A call was given to Mr Duncan of Mid Calder, who declined, and shortly afterwards the Rev. William Mowat accepted a call and was ordained in the month of June, 1881. Mr Mowat is a native of Edinburgh, and previous to coming to Galashiels occupied the position of a student assistantship in Dean Street Church, Edinburgh. After his theological course was completed, he acted as assistant for twelve months to the Rev. Dr Halley of Dumbarton.

At the present date the congregation numbers 650 members, having a Sabbath school attended by 350 scholars. There are also all the other agencies generally found in a well-organised congregation.



## CHAPTER XXII.

### EVANGELICAL UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

1843 **T**HIS Church was originated in 1843 by several members of the Melrose Congregational Church residing in Galashiels, who conducted meetings in the Bridge Inn assembly room. In that year the Evangelical Union was formed by the Rev. James Morrison, Kilmarnock, who in 1841 had been severed from connection with the United Secession Church on account of his views on the Atonement. In 1844 those who carried on these meetings in Galashiels desired to be formed into a Church. For this purpose they applied to the Evangelical Union, and on the 6th October in the same year the Church was constituted by the Rev. Robert Morrison, Bathgate. A month afterwards the newly-formed congregation invited Mr James B. Robertson to undertake the duties of the pastorate. The call was accepted, and Mr Robertson was  
1844 ordained on the 21st November, 1844.

Like all congregations similarly placed, they soon found the disadvantage of not having a place of worship of their own. Accordingly, when a street was opened up, they took the first feu as a site for their church, and when the ground had been marked a number of those interested were discussing what the name of the street should be, when the minister, in allusion to the denominational sympathies of the church, suggested that it might be called "Union" Street. The suggestion was acted upon, and the name remains. The church was built, and opened on the 12th July, 1846. The Rev. J. B. Robertson remained in the pastorate for three years, and then left for Alloa. Subsequently he acted as schoolmaster in the Subscription School in Galashiels, and afterwards went to Glasgow to undertake the editorship of *The League Journal*,

and at a later date held pastorates both in England and Scotland. He died in 1896, within a day or two of the jubilee services of the church in Galashiels, at which he had intended to be present.

He was succeeded by the Rev. James Howie, who was  
1852 settled in September, 1852, and remained till May, 1856.

Mr Howie was a native of Kilmarnock, and began life as a stone-cutter. He was one of the earliest students of the Evangelical Union denomination, and laboured for some time at Wishaw before coming to Galashiels, after leaving which he became pastor of the Evangelical Union Church at Carluke. He emigrated to Canada in 1864, and was settled at Guelph till about 1881, when he accepted a call from the Presbyterian Churches of Comber and Tilbury. He died at Comber on the 23rd November, 1885.

After Mr Howie's departure from Galashiels, the services were conducted by the deacons and probationers belonging to the denomination till 1860, amongst whom was the Rev. A. M. Fairbairn, now Principal of Mansfield College, Oxford, who occupied the pulpit for some time. A call was presented to the Rev. Alexander Brown, who accepted it, and was ordained on  
1861 the 12th July, 1861, and inducted by the Rev. Dr Morrison.

Although in entire sympathy with the Evangelical Union, the congregation had not been formally connected with it, till in 1864 it was deemed advisable to seek admission, and upon application being made, the Church was duly received.

Mr Brown remained in Galashiels till 1876, and during the course of his ministry substantial progress was made. In 1872 the old church was rebuilt on the same site. The opening services were conducted by the Rev. John Pulsford, D.D., Edinburgh, and those on the following Sabbath by the Rev. Dr Ferguson, Glasgow. In 1876 Mr Brown demitted the charge, having accepted a call to St Paul's Street Evangelical Union Church, Aberdeen.

While in Galashiels, Mr Brown published a small book on *The Scripture Doctrine of Baptism*, which has since been

republished. Since then he has given to the world *The Great Day of the Lord*, a book on the interpretation of the Apocalypse, and more recently a series of *Lectures on the Epistle to the Hebrews*, works that have done much to establish his reputation as an original and vigorous thinker.

A vacancy of six months followed the removal of Mr Brown, and then a call was accepted by the Rev. J. C. Nesbitt, formerly  
1877 Congregational minister at Bolton, Lancashire, who was inducted on the 3rd March, 1877, by the Rev. Professor Hunter, Leith. His ministry extended over four and a half years, at the end of which, in December, 1881, he resigned to undertake the pastorate of the Congregational Church at Gourrock.

Between his removal and the next settlement eighteen months elapsed, when the Rev. W. F. Adamson, M.A., Ayr, was inducted by the Rev. Principal Morrison on the 1st July, 1883. The following year the congregation purchased a villa on the Mossilee Road for their minister.

## CHAPTER XXIII.

### ST PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

THIS church originated in the establishment of a mission at Wilderhaugh, the services being held in the lower flat of a dwelling-house, to which the name of St Mary's Chapel was given. Previous to acquiring a local habitation and a name, services had been held for some time in the dining-room at Gala House. The first service in the chapel was held 1851 on the 10th August, 1851, which was conducted by the Rev. H. Randolph, incumbent of Holy Trinity Church, Melrose, and the Rev. T. A. Purdy. On that occasion the congregation consisted of thirty adults and twelve children. Before the expiry of the first year the attendance had increased to 150. The first confirmation was held on the 1st May, 1852, when thirty-four persons were admitted to full membership. On Easter Day, 1853, Holy Communion was celebrated and administered for the first time in St Mary's Chapel to twenty-eight members, who previously had observed the ordinance at Melrose.

In a very short time the growth of the congregation rendered their humble meeting place totally inadequate, and steps were taken to erect a new place of worship. On St Peter's Day, 28th June, 1853, the foundation-stone of the present church in Abbotsford Road was laid, and the building and burial-ground were consecrated on the 17th August, 1854, by the Bishop of the Diocese (Glasgow). At the same time the Rev. T. A. Purdy was inducted to the charge as the first incumbent.

The original trustees of the church were the Bishop of the Diocese (*ex-officio*), the Duke of Buccleuch, Sir James Russell of Ashiestiel, Hugh Scott of Gala, and W. S. Walker of Bowland.

1859 In 1859 Mr Purdy resigned in consequence of bad health, and was succeeded by the Rev. H. G. W. Aubrey, who continued till 1865, when he was appointed Rector of Hale, New Forest, Hampshire, where he died on the 14th November, 1892, in the sixty-sixth year of his age.

1866 Mr Aubrey was succeeded by the Rev. A. A. Jenkins, who was appointed to the incumbency in 1866.

Mr Jenkins was born at Bristol in 1830. At the age of sixteen he went, with the intention of taking holy orders, to Harrow Weald, where he remained for seven years. After two years at King's College, London, he obtained a first class in Finals and the Associateship in theology. He was ordained in 1857 by Bishop Davys of Peterborough to the curacy of Raunds, Northamptonshire, and was gospeller in Peterborough Cathedral. He remained two years at Raunds and then accepted the curacy of Barnack, where he laboured for the succeeding seven years. While there he married the eldest daughter of the late Dean Wilson of Aberdeen, whose wife was the only child of Bishop William Skinner, Primus of Scotland.

When Mr Jenkins was appointed to Galashiels in 1866 there was a debt upon the church of £1500, and the living having been vacant for the preceding nine months, this made the work all the harder for the new incumbent. Through unremitting effort on his part and the liberality of Major Scott and others, not only was the debt cleared off, but in 1881 a new chancel, south aisle, vestries, and an organ were built at a cost of nearly £2000. The Parsonage also was enlarged, and in 1891 a church hall was erected at a cost of £1500. In Halliburton Place, where a considerable number of the members reside, a mission hall is also rented. There are no seat rents in connection with the church, and the total income of the living from congregational sources amounts only to £100, the remainder being a bequest by the late Major Scott of Gala. In 1888 Mr Jenkins was mainly instrumental in procuring the separation of the Tweedside district from the Diocese of Glasgow, and it now belongs to that of Edinburgh.

## CHAPTER XXIV.

### CHURCH OF OUR LADY AND ST ANDREW.

**B**EFORE a Roman Catholic place of worship existed in Galashiels the spiritual necessities of those of that faith were ministered to by Father Taggart, who came from Hawick once a month and celebrated Mass in a private house in Overhaugh Street. Afterwards the Bridge assembly room was utilized for this purpose.

Previous to this time James Robert Hope, a Leith barrister, had married a grand-daughter of Sir Walter Scott and came to reside at Abbotsford, where, having assumed the name of Scott, he became known as Mr Hope-Scott. After some time he and his wife left the Church of England and joined the Roman Catholic Church, when he commenced to take a deep interest both in the temporal and spiritual welfare of his co-religionists who resided in Galashiels. Being desirous that the service should be conducted in a fitting manner, he purchased property at the foot of Stirling Street, upon the site of which he erected a chapel and school, the chapel being opened on the 1853 January, 1853.

In its early days the Roman Catholic mission in Galashiels was under the charge of priests belonging to the Order of Our Lady of Mary Immaculate, whose Scottish headquarters are in Leith. On two occasions Bishop Gillis of Edinburgh visited Galashiels and ordained several priests in the old chapel. In order to provide suitable accommodation for the resident priests, Mr Hope-Scott bought the adjoining properties, which have been used as the Presbytery till the present time. Owing to the increase of the congregation, the chapel soon proved too small and Mr Hope-Scott again displayed his zeal and generosity in purchasing ground adjacent to the chapel, upon which in 1856 the present building was commenced. In 1860

presented to the church a handsome reliquary and two large brass candelabra. These articles formerly belonged to the chapel at Alton Towers, and were bought at the sale of the effects of John, Earl of Shrewsbury. In 1870 a new pulpit and altar rails were erected, and in 1873 it was found necessary to enlarge the church. Again the necessary funds, amounting to £3000, were supplied by Mr Hope-Scott, and the church was completed in the manner it stands at the present time.

In the interior of the church various improvements have been made from time to time, several stained glass windows adding much to its appearance. On the Gospel side of the High Altar there is affixed to the wall a brass plate bearing the following inscription,—

“In Memoriam, of your charity pray for the soul of James Robert Hope-Scott, Q.C., the founder of this church, who died April 29, 1873, fortified with the Sacraments of the Church and the blessing of his Holiness, Pius IX. A weekly mass was founded by him for the repose of his soul and those of his family.”

On the Epistle side of the church there is a Lady Chapel containing a very handsome altar in honour of the Virgin, where another brass plate is thus engraved,—

“Pray for the soul of Charlotte Hope-Scott of Abbotsford, born January 1st, 1828, died October 26th, 1858, who, by the sale of her jewels, provided this altar of Our Lady.”

On the same side of the church is St Patrick's Chapel, where a tablet on the wall furnishes the following information,—

“In honour of the great Apostle of the Irish, the altar in this chapel, used for the first time on the 22nd July, 1866, in presence of the Right Reverend Francis Kerril Amherst, Bishop of Northampton, and a great concourse of the faithful, and solemnly consecrated on the 24th March, 1867, by the Right Reverend John Strain, D.D., Bishop of Abila and Vicar Apostolic of the Eastern District of Scotland, was erected by his children and clients in Galashiels, Selkirk, Lauder, Earlston, Stow, Melrose, Darnick, Midlem, &c.”

The baptismal font was presented to the church in 1873 by Mr Earp of London, in recognition of the congregation's kindness to his son. When the church was being enlarged,

Mr Earp, junior, while employed on the sculptural work, fell from the scaffold upon which he stood, and sustained very severe injuries. For the following three months he lay in the Presbytery, kindly tended by the members of the congregation.

On the other side of the church is the Chapel of St Francis Xavier, and beside the altar is a brass plate thus inscribed,—

“Of your charity, pray for the souls of Lord Henry Francis Charles Kerr, who died March 7th, 1882, and of Louisa Dorothea, his wife, who died January 18th, 1884, the donors of this altar, and for their family, for whom an annual mass is founded in perpetuity.”

In 1884 the two confessionals now in use were built, the wooden boxes formerly used being discarded, and in 1890 the Altar of the Sacred Heart was erected on the Gospel side of the church.

In 1894 a bazaar was held for the purpose of reducing the debt of £2000, chiefly caused by the erection of the new school buildings in 1879, the sum of £700 being realized.

In connection with the church there are the following societies, viz.:—The Guild of St Aloysius, The Women's Guild, The Children of Mary, The Boys' Sodality, and the Guild of St Agnes.

As stated previously, the mission was originally in charge of the priests of the Order of Oblates of Mary Immaculate, but in 1863 it was handed over to Fathers of the Jesuit Order. The following is a list of the several priests of the latter order who have had charge of the mission:—Fathers Langton, 1863; Amherst, 1865; Foxwell, 1868; Law, 1873; Leslie, 1874; Selby, 1874; Maguire, 1874; Sherlock, 1876; Lightbound, 1881; Pittar, 1882; Karslake, 1889; and Lea, 1893.



## CHAPTER XXV.

### SOUTH UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

**T**HIS Church owed its origin to the growth of the town and the feeling expressed by the Presbytery of Melrose regarding the special need for Church extension under the circumstances. The idea was submitted to the existing Churches of the same denomination in the town, with the result that the East United Presbyterian Church expressed its approval, while the West United Presbyterian Church resolved not to oppose it.

On the 13th February, 1877, a committee of the Presbytery held a conference with the elders belonging to the above Churches, when a committee was appointed to co-operate with the Presbyterian Committee in giving practical effect to the scheme. As an initial step, a preaching station was opened in the Public Hall on the fourth Sabbath of February by Mr Robson of Lauder, the services being continued by members of the Presbytery in rotation. In the following month the services were transferred to the old Free Church in the Market Square, where opportunity was afforded for persons to join the station, and on the 11th June, 1877, the Presbytery erected it into a congregation, consisting of fifty-seven members. A student, Walter Brown, M.A., belonging to Selkirk, conducted the services for two months, and when he was licensed the congregation presented him with an unanimous call to become their minister, which he accepted. He was  
1877 ordained on the 15th November, 1877, the membership at that date having risen to 128.

Arrangements were entered into for building a church, and a site was obtained in Galapark Road. The first stone was laid in January, 1879, and the church was opened on the 19th

August, 1880, at a total cost of £5000. A manse was also acquired on the Windyknowe, but being found unsuitable it was afterwards sold and demolished, its site now forming part of the grounds of Woodlands. Under Mr Brown's ministry the congregation rapidly increased. He received calls from London Road, Edinburgh; and Greyfriars', Glasgow, which he declined. He accepted a call from the Braid Congregation, Edinburgh, and 1886 the pastoral tie was dissolved in February, 1886.

In the month of July following the Rev. W. Burnet Thomson, B.D., a native of Greenock, who had previously been an assistant at Paisley, was settled over the congregation, the membership being 420.

In addition to the foregoing places of worship in the town there are also five different sections of Plymouth Brethren, one body of Christadelphians, and a branch of the Salvation Army, who have leased the Corn Exchange for a term of years for their sole use.

There are also the following religious institutions, viz., The Presbyterian Union, composed of the United Presbyterian and the Galashiels Free Churches; the Galashiels Home Mission, Sabbath Morning Fellowship Union, Boys' and Girls' Religious Society, Young Women's Christian Association, Faith Mission, Prayer Union, a branch of the Railway Mission, Band of Hope Union, Scotch Girls' Friendly Society, Young Men's Friendly Society, &c.



### SECTION III.—WOOLLEN INDUSTRY.



## CHAPTER I.

**R**EGARDING the date when the manufacture of woollen cloth was introduced into England authorities differ. According to one account, this occurred 150 years before the time of Cæsar, while another fixes it at the time of the Roman invasion, when, it is said, a woollen manufactory was established at Winchester for the purpose of providing clothing for the Roman army. Were this the case, it would appear that though Rome civilized, and perhaps taught the natives to wear cloth in place of the skins of animals, yet, when they left the country, they had done little or nothing to enable the inhabitants, when thrown on their own resources, to profit by their example. Consequently, little is recorded regarding this industry till the time of the Norman Conquest in 1066, when numbers of Flemings came over to England, whose skill in making cloth was considered to be a gift of nature.

At what period the industry reached Scotland is unknown, but during the reign of David I. some of the privileges granted to the burghs in Scotland throw light upon a manufacture which must have been carried on in several districts in the country. This was the making of cloth, the trades of dyers and fullers being very early enumerated among the burgher classes. Not only is there evidence that woollen cloth was produced for home consumption, but also that an export trade was carried on to a limited extent.

Edinburgh was one of the first places in Scotland where woollen goods were manufactured, the weavers in that city having been incorporated in 1475. As time went on, various Acts of Parliament were passed for the encouragement of the trade, one of these in 1597 denounced

“The hame bringing of English claith, the same having only for the maist part an outward show, wanting that substance and strength whilk oft times it appears to have.”

In the year 1600 an Act was passed by the Privy Council to import one hundred families of strangers skilled in the making of woollen cloth, in order to promote the manufacture of such goods in Scotland. On account of their ignorance of the language, it was provided

“That it salbe lesum to thame to have ane minister or pastoure quha sall teich to thame the Worde of God in their awin language, providing that he aggreis with the religioun presentlie proffest within this realme.”

With the view of inducing the strangers to come to this country, it was declared that the head of every family should be naturalised, and made free of any burgh in which he might take up his abode, and enjoy all the privileges and immunities similar to the natural born burgess. They were also exempted from all taxation or public burdens for the space of ten years on account of the expenses caused by their removal from their own country.

In 1604 it was enacted that

“It sall be lauchfull to gif and grant power to ony that his hienes sall mak choyse of to vndertak the said claith-working, that thairby his hienes profite may be aduancet and the cuntrey benefited.”

Measures were also taken to prevent fraud in connection with the sale of wool, and it was ordained

“That nane quho sellis wooll shall weit the samyne, or put in any worse wooll or filthe to mak vp weight thairon.”

Again, in 1619, the Privy Council brought five men from Holland to give instruction in the manufacture of coarse woollen stuff to the boys and girls in the Edinburgh workhouse, but this scheme proved a failure.

In 1636 the magistrates of Aberdeen obtained a patent from Charles I. to establish a house of correction, in connection with which, and with the view of reforming the criminal classes, they were to be instructed in the manufacture of broadcloths, kerseys, seys, and other coarse cloths, this scheme being eventually abandoned in 1711.

## HISTORY OF GALASHIELS.

In 1641 another Act of the Scottish Parliament declared

“Forsameikle as the want of manufactories, especiallie of cloth of i within this kingdom ar the occassioun of the great poverty of this which sufferis by transporting of vnrought commodities sold in forrai at a low rait, bringing home of other cuntreys made commodities heir at a dear rait, ffor the qlk thair goes yeirlie out of Scotland i alone, fyfteine hundreth thousand pundis. And which is more to be r occassiones all sortis of villanie by thousandes of pepple quho takis th to begging and sorning.”

It was enacted that there should be provided in ever “ane schooll or hous of vertue,” where boys above ten y age should be bound apprentice for seven years to lea spinning, weaving, litting (dyeing), and dressing of cloth

In 1681 the first really promising effort to estab manufactory of woollen fabrics in Scotland was made English company. They acquired ground in the vicin Haddington, and erected the necessary buildings, to whi name of Newmills was given. English workmen were b for the purpose of instructing the natives, and for a num years the company prospered. After the death of the m its affairs fell into confusion, which in a few years brought a dissolution and the abandonment of the enterprise so the original company was concerned.

Notwithstanding the fact that woollen cloth was being in various parts of the country, the industry was only con on a limited scale, and difficulty was experienced in pro cloth in any large quantity. In 1683 General Dalyell, f that he could not procure as much cloth of one colour as clothe a regiment of dragoons, obtained a license from the Council permitting the Newmills company to import 2536 grey cloth from England, caution being found to the ext £500 that the importation would not exceed that quantity. regiment was probably the “Scots Greys,” raised by G Dalyell shortly before that period. John Graham of Claver was also permitted to import one hundred and fifty ells re forty ells of white cloth upon similar conditions.



At this period the manufacture of linen was considered a better industry for Scotland to take up than that of woollen goods. It was found that the English manufacturers of woollens could sell their products from ten to fifteen per cent. cheaper than they could be produced for in Scotland. On the other hand Scotch-made linen could be sold in England from five to ten per cent. cheaper than they could produce it in that country. Acting upon this idea, an Act of Parliament was passed in 1686, for the purpose of encouraging the linen manufacture, in the following terms,—

“Looking to the loss Scotland had in paying away money for linen of Holland and such like, it is hereby enacted that no corpse hereafter of any person whatever shall be buried in any sheet, shirt, or anything else, except in plain linen or cloth of hards, made and spun in Scotland.”

The penalty imposed upon those who contravened this Act was £300 Scots for a nobleman, and £200 Scots for any other person. Another Act of 1695 confirmed the Act of 1686, with the addition that the nearest elder or deacon in the parish was to attend and see if the statute was observed. In 1707 one of the last Acts of the Scottish Parliament was to repeal this statute in favour of the woollen industry, when it was ordained that the dead should be buried in woollen, and imposing a fine of £50 on clergymen who neglected to certify any instance in which the Act was disregarded.

In 1703 the woollen industry appears to have been conducted on a larger scale, as in a supplication to Parliament by William Hog of Harcarse, Berwickshire, requesting certain privileges, it is set forth that

“He had employed many persons, both English and Scotch, in spinning, weaving, walking, litting and dressing of woollen yarn, and did make and lit as much red cloath as did furnish all the Earl of Hyndford’s regiment of dragoons with red cloathes, and that in a very short space.”

When the Union between England and Scotland took place, the result proved disastrous to the Scottish woollen manufacturers. At that period they had arrived at some perfection in making broad-cloths, druggets, and woollen stuffs

generally. When the prohibition against the free importation of English cloth was removed, it was sent into Scotland in such quantities and at such prices as completely extinguished the manufacture of the better class of goods in that country. Possibly this result had been foreseen, as the fifteenth article of the Treaty of Union made provision for giving some equivalent to Scotland on account of the increase in Custom and Excise duties. It was provided that £2000 a year should, for seven years, be applied towards encouraging and promoting the manufacture of coarse wool in those shires which produced wool, and afterwards wholly employed towards

“Encouraging and promoting the fisheries and such other manufactories and improvements in Scotland as may most conduce to the general good of the Kingdom.”

In 1718 this sum of £2000 was made payable for all time coming out of the Customs and Excise in Scotland. In 1725 an addition was made to this amount by an Act which provided

“That when the produce of threepence per bushel, to be laid on malt, should exceed £20,000 a year, such surplus should be added to the above fund of £2000 and applied to the same purposes.”

In 1826 the Crown was empowered by Parliament to appoint twenty-one trustees, who, in the following year, were named by letters patent, which prescribed their duties and the plan of expending the funds at their disposal in the encouragement of fisheries and the woollen, linen, and hempen manufactures. Among the names on the first Board were the following, viz.:—Sir Hew Dalrymple, Lord President of Session; Sir James McKenzie of Roystown, Andrew Fletcher of Milntown, and Patrick Campbell of Monzie, Senators of the College of Justice; Sir James Clerk of Pennycuik, George Drummond, Lord Provost of Edinburgh; Mungo Graham of Gorthic, James Paterson, advocate, of Kirkton; Thomas Hope of Rankeilor, Gilbert Stewart, and Alexander Arbuthnot, merchants in Edinburgh. In 1809 other seven members were added to the Board, and in 1828 new letters patent were issued, giving to the trustees a wider discretion which empowered them

to apply their funds for the encouragement, not only of manufactures, but also of such other undertakings in Scotland as should most conduce to the general good of the United Kingdom.

This Board was termed "The Board of Trustees for Manufactures in Scotland." One of the earlier presidents was Sir Patrick Lindsay, Lord Provost of Edinburgh, who in 1733 published a book entitled *The Interests of Scotland Considered*. This work contains an interesting account of the woollen trade of Scotland as it existed at that date, and states that,

"At Kilmarnock are made of our own wool, low priced serges, partly for home consumpt and partly for the markets of Holland. At Stirling and its neighbourhood large quantities of serges are made, and several low priced woollen goods, all for home consumpt, and rather cheaper than can be purchased in England. At Aberdeen and the adjacent counties large quantities of coarse tarred wool are manufactured into coarse serges, and knit stockings of all prices. Some of these goods are consumed at home, some exported to Holland, and some sold in London for export to foreign parts. At Edinburgh fine shalloons are made of the best wool, and cheaper than they can be had in England. At Musselburgh there is a considerable manufacture of low priced goods for home consumpt and export to the Plantations, but the price has fallen so low, the makers can scarce make their bread by them. At Galashiels are made a few coarse kerseys, called Galashiels Greys, for home consumpt, and was their wool better scribbled, the goods more milled and better finished, they might serve in place of the lowest priced Yorkshires for country wear to ordinary people and day labourers. At Kirkcudbright, Hawick, and other places near the wool counties, several packs of tarred wool have been washed, some of it sorted, combed, spun, and wrought into blankets and other coarse goods by private hands for their own use; all done by the help of public encouragement to advance the price of wool in these parts, but as yet to little or no purpose."

Inspectors appointed by the Board of Trustees travelled throughout Scotland, for whose guidance the following instructions were issued,—

"I. You will carefully inquire into and inspect every considerable centre of the woollen manufacture carried on throughout the country, and report particularly the kind, quality, and price of the wool made use of, from where the same is procured, where the yarn is spun, the rate of spinning, the different kinds, qualities, and prices of the goods manufactured, and where the same are sold.

- II. You are to remark the natural advantages of the situation for any particular branch of the woollen manufacture, and give your opinion in what manner they may be best encouraged by assistance from the Board.
- III. You are to give your best advice to the woollen manufacturers as to the proper method of carrying on, improving and extending their businesses, and if you should observe any frauds among the spinners and weavers you will report the same to the Board with your opinion of the proper method of correcting them.
- IV. In your progress through the woollen counties you will make particular inquiry as to the quantity of raw and manufactured wool bought up and sent to England, and report as nearly as you can judge the qualities of English wool imported into Scotland."

One of these inspectors was David Loch, who in 1776 made a tour through the trading towns and villages in Scotland, and afterwards published a series of essays on their trade and manufactures. In these he strongly urged the necessity of persevering in the effort to establish the woollen manufacture. He predicted that by doing so Scotland would be raised from abject poverty and mean obscurity to the same degree of opulence and dignity as the sister kingdom.

In one of these essays he thus describes the town and trade of Galashiels at that date,—

"Galashiels is a large irregular-built village, the property of John Scott, Esq. of Gala. The houses are mostly built on a ninety-nine years' lease. The people are very industrious, all employed in the coarse woollen goods, but principally on what is called Galashiels Greys, three-quarters wide and from twenty to twenty-one yards long, value from 1s 6d to 4s per yard. Blankets are likewise made here from Forest wool, which is much less laid with tar than that produced in Tweeddale. Here there are about thirty looms. They spin all their own yarn, and sell a good deal of it in different places in the country. They manufacture annually about 2200 stones of wool tron weight. In this village there are three waulk mills that pay six pounds sterling to Mr Scott for the water. George Marshall, who was an apprentice by order of the Board of Trustees, finds his woad vats answer well, and the Haddington woad he and all the clothiers think better than any they ever had from England. Thomas Turnbull was the first that taught the use of woad here. Alexander Scott is of much service to this place, he manufactures into cloth and yarn fifty packs of wool and eight packs of Riga flax annually, and is employed by Clement & Russell of Darlington, though the carriage to and from that place

is equal to one penny per pound, which is full fifteen per cent. on the value. He likewise manufactures a great deal of coarse flannels from tenpence to fourteenpence per yard. The houses now building at this village evidently show that the people are in a much more prosperous way at present than they were formerly, as one new house is worth at least ten of the old ones."

In regard to the Border towns, Mr Loch states that

"Melrose had 140 looms, most of them being employed in the weaving of woollen cloth. In Hawick there were 51 looms employed in the weaving of both linen and woollen goods, besides 14 looms engaged in the weaving of carpets. Kelso had 40 looms mostly engaged in weaving blankets and flannels. In Peebles 40 looms were employed in the manufacture of coarse woollen goods. In Selkirk a few looms were devoted to jobbing, but a considerable quantity of yarn was made in the district, it being estimated that £55 per week was paid in the town for spinning. Jedburgh is described as a Royal burgh, where 'there had been much dispute and discussion about their town's politics, so that the people had neglected all business and paid little or no attention to manufactures;' there were about 55 looms in the town, all engaged in jobbing."

In reference to the position of the woollen trade throughout Scotland generally at this period, Edinburgh used about 21,000 lbs. of wool annually, the workmen, being on piece work, could earn one shilling per day "if they choose to exert themselves." Dalkeith manufactured 100 stones of wool into broad-cloth ranging from four shillings to fourteen shillings per yard. The factory at Musselburgh used about 1000 stones of wool, and in addition a quantity of yarn was bought in Selkirk and Peebles, the price of the goods being from two shillings and sixpence to sixteen shillings per yard. Wool was also manufactured into cloth, carpets, and stockings at Dunbar, Linton, Tranent, Linlithgow, Perth, and Inverness. Glasgow had one carpet factory, Stirling had one hundred and sixty looms, thirty-eight stocking frames, and seventeen carpet frames. Alloa had twenty factories employing about one hundred and fifty looms, Kilmar-nock had sixty-six carpet looms, and eighty engaged in other branches of the trade. Ayr had about one hundred looms, Moffat had fifty engaged on serges, shalloons, and blankets. Elgin produced annually £15,000 worth of yarn for the London and

Glasgow markets. At Peterhead there were two factories producing goods to the amount of £50 and £60 respectively per week. In Aberdeen two hundred and forty looms were engaged on woollen and linen, and Montrose had a woollen factory employing seventy hands.

Such was the extent of the woollen trade in Scotland in 1777 when the Galashiels Manufacturers' Corporation came into existence.



WEAVERS' FLAG.

## CHAPTER II.

### THE WEAVERS' CORPORATION.

1581 **T**HE earliest indication of the woollen trade in Galashiels is contained in a manuscript belonging to Mr Scott of Gala, dated 1581. In this document "waulk mills" are mentioned as pertinents belonging to the barony. In those days these mills were of an extremely primitive construction, being in all probability driven direct from the water wheel, and either entirely exposed or merely covered with a boarded roof, consequently in frosty weather work was necessarily suspended. This indeed was the case up to a comparatively recent date, as a late venerable member of the Manufacturers' Corporation was in the habit of jocularly claiming the credit of introducing the first improvement of any kind in the trade by causing a clay wall to be built round the north side of his waulk mill as a protection from the snow-drift in winter.

The origin of the term "walker" is supposed to be derived from the ancient practice of women working the cloth with their feet. This process was rendered obsolete by the introduction of fulling mills.

The custom of fulling cloth in this manner would also seem to have been practised in England in ancient times, as the following quotation testifies,—

“Cloth that cometh fro the weiving is not comely to wear,  
Till it be fulled vnder fote, or in fulling stocks,  
Washen well wyth water, and with tasels cratched,  
Touked and teynted, and vnder taylour’s hande.”

Nothing further is recorded regarding the woollen trade of 1666 the village till 1666, when a small colony of weavers formed themselves into a corporate body. The purpose of this combination was the better regulation of the trade, and providing the various utensils and articles connected with the craft for the common use of the members. It is interesting to note the curious trade practices, and the changes that are chronicled. In early times the members of the Corporation were jealous of each other, and attempts to over-reach neighbours were not altogether unknown. The following are the rules and regulations by which the members bound themselves,—

“GALASHIELS, 8th November, 1666.

- 1.—The which day the DEACON and whole brethren of the WEAVERS within the bounds and jurisdiction of GALASHIELS having met and convened anent making of the several ACTS following for punishing the many disorders and abuses that may happen to be committed by any member of their trade in time coming, has statute and ordained. Likewise they by these presents and by virtue of a WARRANT and COMMISSION given to them by the Right Honourable James Scott, baron and bailie principal of the Baronie of Galashiels, and John Scott his brother Germain, depute of the same, dated the 8th day of November, 1666, and registered in the Court book of the said baronie the 9th November, 1666. The same more fully bears statute and ordains, &c.
- 2.—That in case it shall happen any of the brethren of the said trade, or any person whatever to enter a COMPLAINT against another, that with their said complaint (before they can be heard) they are to consign in the hands of their TREASURER the sum of HALF-A-CROWN to be confiscate or forfeited in case their complaint be not proven or made out.



- 3.—Its statute enacted and ordained whosoever of the said trade through sloth or neglect, by themselves or their servants, shall spoil any work, he shall pay into the box of the Corporation the sum of half-a-crown.
- 4.—That no weaver in this Corporation shall take an APPRENTICE for a shorter space than four years bound, and the same to be cleared by their INDENTURES under the pain of paying into the Corporation the sum of ten pounds, Scots money.
- 5.—That on the entrie of every apprentice to the trade they shall pay to the common box of the trade the sum of half-a-crown, *toties quoties*.
- 6.—That each apprentice after the expiration of his apprenticeship, or any journeyman setting up and going to his own hand, at their entrie thereto they shall pay into the common box four pounds Scots.
- 7.—That the DEACON of the said trade shall be present at the agreement of any apprentice under the penalty of half-a-crown.
- 8.—That whosoever of the said trade being warned by the OFFICER at the DEACON's direction to attend the funeral of any member of the Corporation, and shall be found absent, shall pay thirteen shillings and fourpence, Scots money, if he has not a lawful excuse; provided always the said burial be held within the bounds of the parish or the like.
- 9.—That whosoever of the said trade shall work any work to any person who was in use to work to another person, and has not satisfied him for the former work, shall pay forty shillings Scots money, being advertised by the former workman that he is not satisfied; and yet notwithstanding of his said advertisement, works the said work, or denies that he had the same or wrought it.
- 10.—That whosoever of the said trade shall refuse to pay any of the fines contained in this and all other pages in case of their contravention of the foresaid Acts, or of any Acts or statutes to be made in time coming. Their contravention being made out, and they required to pay their fines by the Officer, shall pay the double of the fine without any modification for their CONTEMPT and DISOBEDIENCE.
- 11.—Its statute and ordained that whosoever of the said Corporation shall happen at any time to undervalue their DEACON, Quarter-master or Box-master, by word or otherwise, shall pay the sum of half-a-crown, t.q."

The above were the original rules of the Weavers' Corporation, but in the course of the following year others were added to the following effect,—

"1st October, 1667.

- 12.—That whosoever of the said trade shall entice or persuade any other man's servant from his service, he shall pay half-a-crown, t.q.

- 13.—That each person of the said Corporation who shall at any of their meetings be heard CURSING or SWEARING, shall pay twopence stg., t.q. And if they shall refuse to pay that sum, he or they shall be poinded for the double of the said fine.
- 14.—Its statute and ordained by the DEACON, and a quorum convened as above. That every one that setteth up in the said trade shall before their setting up be tried, and being found sufficient and qualified, shall at their upsetting pay four pounds Scots, as is contained in any former Act made thereanent, and if they be found unqualified they shall serve ANOTHER YEAR."

1669      These regulations were ratified on the 17th July, 1669, by the Lord of the Manor, and power was given

"To fine, unlaw, and amerciate the contraveners thereof, and to compel, poynd, and distrenzie, by their own ordinary officer therefor."

Under these rules the Corporation existed for the following twenty-three years, till on the 24th December, 1692, it was again enacted,—

" 24th December, 1692.

- 15.—That in all time coming, whosoever of the said Corporation shall happen to be married, shall give to the DEACON one pair of gloves to the value of TEN SHILLINGS Scots, whither he be present at the wedding or not.
- 16.—That no upsetting journeyman or apprentice shall enter to work until they satisfy the trade according to the former Act.
- 1696 17.—11th November, 1696.—That none of the said trade shall absent himself from any meeting of the said trade (if he be warned thereto by the officer) without liberty being asked and given by the DEACON, under the pain and penalty of one shilling stg., t.q.
- 1713 18.—25th December, 1713.—That whosoever shall take work from any person that hath come from another workman, he or they shall be obliged to satisfy the former workman, and this must be done before they can work any to them; under the pain of ten shillings stg.
- 19.—That if any of the trade shall have any complaint to enter, they shall enter them within the present DEACON's reign, or else they cannot be heard.
- 20.—That none within the Corporation shall inform any Corporation or member of another Corporation, who is not a member of his own, of any ACTS contained therein, under the pain of paying the sum of half-a-crown.
- 21.—That at the giving-up of INDENTURES the master and his late apprentice are to pay half a gallon of ale, t.q.

- 1715 22.—*2nd November, 1715.*—That every eldest son of a member of the Corporation serving his apprenticeship with a member, at his entry shall pay five shillings sterling for their freedom to the trade, but not serving shall pay according to Article 37.
- 23.—It is agreed upon that all the weavers in the Corporation of Galashiels that has three stones of wool must dye it in the leads, and lesser quantities in the kettles.
- 1779 On 22nd February, 1779, it was agreed upon by the whole trade that the caulms given by the Honourable Trustees must not be sold or carried out of the town.
- 1781 24.—*31st December, 1781.*—The trade being met and taking into consideration the many debates that happen from some of the members absenting themselves from the public meetings. Its statute and ordained that whosoever absents themselves from the public meetings, that is able to attend, must pay along with the rest of the Corporation that does attend, or be cut off from being a member.
- On the 1st February, 1782, it is recorded that 'Alexander Clapperton, son of Thomas Clapperton, weaver in Newmill, entered to the trade of weaver in Galashiels, and to have an equal claim to everything in the trade, along with the rest of the same trade, for paying the sum of six shillings sterling, no way entitling his progeny. Likewise James Lees, son of Robert Lees, shares the like privilege for paying the sum of one shilling stg. for the mortcloth, and two for drink, the same as a member's eldest son.'
- 25.—Its statute and ordained, that at the minute writing of an apprentice they are to pay one shilling stg. for drink, and two at their indenture signing.
- 26.—Whosoever refuses to pay their fines or other bondages that the trade find reasonable, shall lose every benefit of the same trade.
- 27.—Whosoever does not bring home the TRADE'S REEDS within twenty-four hours after cutting out the web, shall pay twopence for each day after.
- 28.—That whatsoever comes to be disputed in trade, the members MUST address themselves to the DEACON, and must not speak above five minutes at a time, under the penalty of one shilling stg. for each offence.
- 29.—That if any master shall have an APPRENTICE to go from him by receiving a compensation before the expiry of his indenture, he shall pay five shillings stg. into the box.
- 30.—That whereas it hath been made a complaint that some of the members hath depreciated his brother's work in a secret way to the customer. Its statute and ordained that no brother shall follow that practice in future, under the penalty of paying one shilling stg. for each offence.

- 31.—That no member who may go out of the trade for their disobedience to the laws of the Corporation, can be taken in again without paying half-a-crown above their fine or cause of going out.
- 32.—That no member is to give any assistance to any outcast member by giving or lending their own property, under the pain and penalty of one shilling stg. for each offence. The above to extend to all incomers.
- 1786 33.—*24th November, 1786.*—This day it is agreed upon by the whole Corporation, that any member who may go out of the same to evade the public meeting, or for any other reason; before they can again be admitted into the society, must pay the sum of ten shillings stg.
- 34.—That each stranger journeyman at his entry to his service with his new master is to pay one shilling sterling into the box, and another for drink.
- 1788 35.—*8th April, 1788.*—That whosoever of the said trade shall damnify any of the public utensils they shall be liable to pay whatever the DEACON and QUARTER-MASTER shall determine in order to repair the damage. The judges always to be ignorant of the aggressor."

### CHAPTER III.

1789

**A**T this date the Weavers' Corporation appears, through poverty, to have been unable to carry out their desire to introduce the fly shuttle, and the following letter was sent to Dr Douglas requesting his assistance in their extremity,—

“SIR,

Wee supos that you heave heard the repited Complents of oure Cloths beeing so narow which oblidged us to adapt the lids (Leeds) plan in Erecting Fly Shuttls and indead many of us is Standing indeted to the Tradsman for the expence oing to our want of Stok but what ads still to the misfortan the friction the whiels cases upon the Slits heath rendered our stok almost Euseles and the read makers tells us that nothing but stieel reads will stand which is altogether out of our pour to purchiss and we are persuaded that if the matter was represented to the Honrable boord of Trustes by any kind person they ould len ther aid to purchiss such a nesaser thing for unless wee be helpit wee will be redused to our old way which we are Convinced mos be much to the hurt of our Cloths in the way of Imprafment and what a pity it is for a bout FIFTY LOOMS daly Impleyd should not be incuriged to work upon the best plan and if the Bord was mead aquented with thes matters of Fack and grant ther asistence we ould oblidg Each person to pay as much as should be found nesisary to support the stok.”

Such was the earnest cry and prayer of the Weavers' Corporation in the olden time, and it was fortunate for them and for the future of the town, that it was addressed to no unwilling ear. Doubtless, the wisdom of the Corporation was engaged in drawing up this epistle which affords such an object-lesson on the state of education in Galashiels a little over a century ago. Possibly at the request of Dr Douglas, the following letter was written and addressed to him by some one more conversant with the ordinary form observed in such cases,—

“SIR,

We beg the favour of you when in Edr to take some proper opportunity of waiting on the Honble board of Trustees on our behalf. You are well acquaint both with our worldly circumstances and with what pertains to

our business, and therefore we leave it to you either to represent our case by word or writing as you shall find to be best for our interest. We think that in conversation you could set forth many little particulars which could not be brought into a petition. But if a petition is necessary we empower you to draw up and present one in our name for some aid from the board toward providing a complete set of brass or steel reeds to answer our fly shuttles which we find will soon destroy and render useless our timber ones. During the 8 or 9 months that we have used these fly shuttles we have wrought more in a day, and our work is much easier for our persons, and fully better than with the common shuttles, but the poverty of most of our number makes us equally unable to bear the expense of purchasing steel or brass reeds and must of course oblige us to lay aside fly shuttles, and even of keeping ourselves in common reeds. We have taken the liberty of giving you a memorandum of a few facts, some of which you know of yourself, and the rest can be well attested if required. From these you can make up a petition or memorial for the information of the Trustees if they desire it, or if you judge it necessary to serve us, your trouble in this and every other case will be gratefully acknowledged by us all weavers in Galashiels.

MARCH 3, 1789.

George Chisholm,	Robert Heitly,	Andrew Clapperton,
William Sanderson,	Thomas Speedin,	Thomas Lunn,
William Brown,	Will. Hislop,	Robert Scott,
Will. Dobson,	Simon Atchison,	Andrew Thomson,
John Clapperton,	George Brown,	Robert Walker,
William Chisholm,	John Sanderson,	Thomas Walker,
Robert Frier,	William Cochran,	James Brown,
George Clapperton,	John Cochran,	John Dobson,
James Hislope,	Thomas Pringle,	Archibald Cochran."

It appears from the above petition that fly shuttles, which had been invented by John Kay of Bury in 1738, were introduced into Galashiels in 1788, fifty years afterwards.

The following is a copy of the memorandum referred to in the petition to Dr Douglas, and is interesting on account of the light it throws upon the condition of the weaving trade of the town a century ago,—

"A long time ago, the weavers in and near Galashiels found it convenient to form themselves into a kind of Incorporation. One principal advantage was providing a stock of reeds for their common behoof, for it was not within the power of every individual to furnish himself with reeds of every size for which he might have occasion. The coarsest reeds which they use are of 12 porter, or 12 times 40 threads in the warp, the finest is 24 porter, or 24 times

40 threads in the warp. They have in all 13 different sizes of reeds, and generally 5, often 6 and sometimes 9 or 10 sets of every size. To these reeds from 45 to 50 looms have access when needful. The present number of looms at work is 47. To repair or replace these reeds costs at an average about £3 stg., which is defrayed by levying one penny for every web of 20 yards wrought in reeds of 19 porter and upwards, and one halfpenny for the same length woven in reeds below 19 porter. Though some individuals who can afford it have a few sets of reeds for themselves of the particular size they commonly use, yet the generality partly from inability and partly from choice use and pay for the reeds of the Incorporation. Since May last when fly shuttles were introduced, the destruction of reeds has been so great as far to exceed their funds, and put it out of their power to replace them. The price of reeds made from cane or wood run from 3s to 5s 6d per set, and the destruction of them by one man working constantly with the fly shuttle cannot be less than five set of reeds or 22s every year, an expense which even the economical plan of a common stock cannot support. This expense is not balanced by the profits of the fly shuttle, for although with one of them a man can work 4 or 5 yards more in a day of better work and with less fatigue, yet the expense of purchasing and mounting them (27s 6d) is heavy on a poor man with a numerous family, and the additional wages which he earns by them in a day being at an average only of about fivepence will scarcely defray that expense, and pay for the consumpt of reeds. There being also a necessity for an immediate outlay to supply the loss of reeds that the work may not stop, and the earnings of weavers not affording to advance it, many of them have run in arrears to the Incorporation, and some have hitherto not been able to pay for their fly shuttles. Yet to give up these shuttles after they are already used in 24 looms and 10 or 12 are ready to be mounted in other looms, would evidently be losing great advantages. Beside working a greater quantity with less fatigue, softer woof can be closer driven, which makes better cloth, and webs can with equal ease and expedition be woven as broad as the loom will admit. With the hand shuttle the broader the web so much greater the toil, and less the quantity wrought, but the breadth of a web makes little or no odds as to toil or quantity with the fly shuttle. And as complaints have long been made of the narrowness of Galashiels cloth, the use of that shuttle will enable the weavers to make it so wide as to dress into a full yard English, or at least into the half breadth of the English 7/4 cloth. That they may retain fly shuttles they had thoughts of procuring iron, steel or brass reeds from Leeds, but on inquiry found that complete sets of these would far exceed their ability, as they could not be purchased under £50, costing from 12s to 20s each, and five sets of each size being needed at an average to keep all their looms going. Should the Board please to give this sum or the sets of brass, steel or iron reeds it can purchase, they will submit to any conditions or regulations which the Board shall think necessary and they will find security to uphold them and even to increase their number

by levying double the present rates for working with them. If the Board shall not be prevailed upon to grant the whole, three sets of them shall be cheerfully accepted, though the weavers are sorry to add that nothing less can enable them to continue the use of the fly shuttle."

Notwithstanding the number of rules the Corporation had 1803 already in force, the following were added in 1803,—

- "36.—That any upsetting member shall pay into the trade the sum of 15s stg. (N.B.), all men serving in the trade the full time of his or their apprenticeships.
- 1806 37.—*26th July, 1806.*—That any person wishing to join the Corporation (not serving his time therein), must pay the sum of two pounds stg. for the same, likewise two shillings for drink.
- 38.—That any member has liberty to take in an apprentice for three years (to learn the woollen only).
- 39.—That no member can employ a journeyman without showing a certificate that he has served a regular apprenticeship.
- 1808 40.—*28th February, 1808.*—That whosoever of the said trade takes or seeks work over another tradesman's head, or shall submit to carry his work to be inspected by any other person than his employer only, shall pay into the box of the Incorporation the full sum of forty shillings stg., t.q.
- 41.—That if any member fall in arrears to the trade and does not make payment within one year from the date when it becomes due, he shall be deprived of all privileges belonging to the Corporation.
- 42.—Its settled and agreed to by the Corporation of Weavers in Galashiels that there will be no more service at any FUNERAL belonging to any member of the said Corporation.
- 1809 43.—*28th July, 1809.*—That if any former member wishes to join the Corporation, before they can be admitted they must pay up their arrears, and also SEVEN SHILLINGS stg. for their freedom to the same before they can be re-admitted.
- 1810 44.—*1st October, 1810.*—Its statute and agreed to by the Corporation of Weavers that a majority of the same body (legally assembled) shall regulate the same, all acts to the contrary notwithstanding."

At this time a little episode occurred in connection with the weavers, which is thus referred to by Walter Scott in a letter to Southey,—

"Last week learning that a meeting was to be held among the weavers of the large manufacturing village of Galashiels, for the purpose of cutting a man's web from the loom, I apprehended the ringleaders and disconcerted



the whole project. But in the course of my inquiries imagine my surprise discovering a bundle of letters and printed manifestoes, from which it appeared that the Manchester Weavers' Committee corresponded with every manufacturing town in the south and west of Scotland, and levies a subsidy of 2s 6d per man (an immense sum) for the ostensible purpose of petitioning Parliament for redress of grievances, but doubtless to sustain them in their revolutionary movements."

1813      On the 25th December, 1813, another rule to the following effect was added,—

"45.—That any person wishing to enter the Corporation as a journeyman (not serving his time or apprenticeship within the same) must pay into the box the sum of 10s stg."

1814      On the 1st January, 1814, the Weavers' Corporation presented Dr Douglas with a very handsome and valuable tea vase with an appropriate inscription, expressive of their gratitude for his unwearied efforts to promote their prosperity.

1820      On the 21st October, 1820, the foregoing rules and regulations, added since 17th July, 1669, were presented to John Scott of Gala and George Craig, his Bailie depute, and were approved of and ratified by them.

## CHAPTER IV.

1821 **I**N 1821 the kettles used for dyeing purposes belonging to the Corporation went amissing, having been stolen from the custody of William Frier, who had been entrusted with their safe keeping. After a most diligent search, which lasted for two weeks, they were discovered in Neidpath wood, between Yair and Clovenfords, having evidently been used for illicit distillation.

1822 In 1822 a new flag was procured and displayed for the first time at the annual procession. It cost £7, 3s 4d, and the Corporation was so well pleased with the manner in which William Rule of Jedburgh had painted it that they allowed him an extra five shillings.

1829 Between this date and 1829 other ten rules were added, but they possess no new feature calling for remark, being similar in every respect to some of those already recorded.

A pronounced characteristic of these old obsolete laws was the jealousy which their framers showed concerning the admission of outsiders to their privileges. A very curious instance, which may possibly have arisen from racial dislike, is furnished by the records of the Newcastle Corporation of Weavers in 1527. This society decreed that no member should take a Scotsman for apprentice, or set any of that nation to work, under a penalty of forty shillings. Another instance showing the power possessed by these Corporations in the olden times is mentioned in the records of the Board of Trustees. It is stated that Alexander Kidd, weaver, Leith, requested the Board to defend him in a lawsuit raised against him by the Canongate Incorporation of Weavers for weaving woollen cloth, he not being a freeman of that body. The Board were at a loss how to act in the matter, and they applied to Lord Kames for his opinion and advice. They were warned against interfering

in the case, as they would assuredly fail if they attempted to defend Kidd, because the Act of Parliament which made linen weaving free made no reference to the weaving of woollen cloth.

These old weavers must not only have been Protectionists of the first water, but also devout believers in hereditary succession and in the rights of the first-born; for, while they exacted a heavy fee from all who became members of their Corporation, they admitted the eldest son of a member at a nominal payment. These regulations show the jealous fearfulness with which these Corporations guarded their privileges, and how ready they were to cry out, "This our craft is in danger."

1839 At a meeting held in 1839 the following motion was adopted,—

"That as some members have refused to pay the usual sum of sixpence for pies and porter, without giving notice prior to such being ordered, they shall be charged by the Corporation to that amount, as the sale of such pies and porter is the only remuneration the landlord receives for the use of the room."

In those days the "mortcloth" bulked largely in the belongings of the Weavers' Corporation. This was the name of the pall, made of black velvet, which covered the coffin while being carried to the place of burial. An agreement had been entered into between the heritors and the Corporation whereby for a consideration it enjoyed the privilege of having a mortcloth for the use of the members. It transpired, however, that, in order to add to the funds, the practice had crept in of letting it out to any person at the reduced rate of two shillings for the large, and one shilling for the small one. This custom the heritors resented on the ground that the weavers by this action were depriving the poor's fund of the fees payable for the use of the parish mortcloth. They accordingly gave notice to the Weavers' Corporation to desist from allowing their mortcloth to be used by non-members, otherwise legal proceedings would be taken to restrain them. The weavers met and came to the conclusion that they were within their rights, the heritors having no

title to interfere. No reply was made to the communication, but notices were put up on public places intimating their readiness to hire out their mortcloth to any requiring it. When this came to the ears of the heritors, they gave instructions to their agent to raise an action for interdict, but, for some unexplained reason, they departed from their resolution, and nothing further was done regarding it.

- 1840 In the month of June, 1840, all the old laws and regulations were rescinded, and a new set, numbering fourteen, was submitted to the Corporation and adopted. These were a condensed edition of those they had discarded, dealing with the amount of entry money, apprentice fees, and penalties. The presentation of a pair of gloves to the Deacon, in the event of a member being married, was retained, and the fourteenth rule appointed that,—

“The Corporation mortcloth be given out to those not members of the Corporation at a charge of 1s for the large and 6d for the small one, and the keeper was empowered to give it gratis to any he might consider in indigent circumstances.”

- 1842 On the 16th March, 1842, at a general meeting, a motion was proposed to the following effect, viz. :—“That the property of the Weavers’ Corporation be divided amongst the members.” An amendment “that the surplus funds be laid out in the establishment of a provision store” was carried. All arrangements were accordingly made, premises suitable for a shop and the services of a store-keeper were secured. This action, however, was opposed by a minority, who requested the Deacon to call a general meeting for the purpose of reconsidering the resolution. The meeting was held but no agreement was arrived at. An interdict was served upon the Deacon, and the majority resolved to defend their action in the matter. At a subsequent meeting it was agreed to divide the surplus funds, to dispose of the reeds and pickers, to admit no new members, and advertise the dissolution of the Corporation. Accordingly, the surplus funds were divided, each member receiving the sum of 7s 6d. At the next meeting the motion to dissolve the Corporation was rescinded by a majority of seven votes.

In the following year a joint-stock company started to supply reeds, and the weavers now resolved to dissolve their Corporation, provided they had the power. The opinion of the Solicitor-General was taken on the question, who advised them "that should one member object to the proposed dissolution he would succeed in his objection before a civil tribunal." The Corporation was therefore carried on, and in 1847 1847 another division of the funds took place, each member receiving 5s and an old reed, which could not be otherwise disposed of. In 1850 there were 256 members, but from that date it fell off to such an extent that four years afterwards the income was unable to balance the expenditure. The Corporation struggled on till September 20th, 1854, when the last general meeting was held.

The next reference to its affairs occurs on the 20th May, 1875 1875, when the members of committee met and agreed to dispose of the few remaining reeds. At another meeting, held shortly afterwards, it was reported that Adam Cochrane, manufacturer, had consented to relieve them of the reeds at valuation, also that he was willing to become the custodian of the Weavers' Corporation minute book, flag, and two sashes. It was agreed to give him the reeds at his own price, and also to hand over the property of the Corporation into his keeping conditionally,

"That the Committee reserve all right and claim on behalf of the Weavers' Corporation to the said minute book, flag, and sashes; but that Mr Cochrane may and can use them as his wish may direct, unless required by the Weavers' Corporation, and that all applications for the same will be made by two at least of the undersigned,

(Signed) THOMAS PRINGLE.

GEORGE MERCER, *Clerk*.

ANDREW BALLANTYNE, *Vice-Deacon*.

Like the clothiers and dyers, the weavers dined together annually, and the following are a few of the occasions,—

1811.—70 dined in George Haldane's (The Hall), the first reckoning being 5s, the second 1s 6d, also 1s 6d for supper.

- 1820.—88 dined in George Scott's (The Fleece Inn), the first reckoning 5s, second for married people 2s, and 3s for the lads.
- 1821.—83 dined in Thomas Murray's (The Bridge Inn), amongst them being John Scott, Esq. of Gala, and Mr George Craig, his depute; first reckoning 5s, second for married people 1s, and 1s 6d for the lads.
- 1825.—54 dined in Mr Martin's (The Ordinance Arms), first reckoning 5s, second 6d.
- 1828.—55 dined in Mr William Dickson's (Harrow Inn)."

Such is the little history of the oldest Corporation in the town, so far at least as can be gleaned from the scanty records which yet remain testifying to its being. It had existed for over two hundred years, and in the early days of the village its Deacon and office-bearers were considered men of light and leading. It served its day and generation, till, crippled by the march of improvement, the advent of the power-loom completed its downfall, and swept away an industry which at one time was the oldest and principal handicraft in Galashiels, only serving now to furnish another instance that

"Our little systems have their day,  
They have their day and cease to be."



MANUFACTURERS' FLAG.

## CHAPTER V.

### THE MANUFACTURERS' CORPORATION.

1581 **A**S already recorded, waulk mills existed at Galashiels in 1581, and the weavers belonging to the village were incorporated in 1666. Beyond these two facts there remains no record in connection with the trade in those early years of its history. In 1729 a wool-sorter was established in the town for the purpose of improving the prevailing method of preparing wool for spinning. In 1733 a reference was made by Sir Patrick Lindsay to the manufacture of "Galashiels Greys," which, according to his description, was the name of an extremely coarse and inferior quality of woollen cloth.

In the records of the Board of Trustees for Manufactures in Scotland, various references are made to the progress of the local industry from 1727 and onward. In 1774 the Rev. Robert Douglas, minister of Galashiels, stated that the wool used at that date was obtained in the district, the yarn being woven into blankets and cloth styled "Galashiels Greys;" these he characterised as a coarse and inferior imitation of Yorkshire Medleys.

In 1774 the quantity of wool spun and woven into cloth by the clothiers in the village amounted to 722 stones, and this Mr Douglas styled "manufacturing woollen goods to a great extent." This quantity of wool was divided among the clothiers in the following proportions,—

"George Mercer, 152 stones; Thomas Blaikie, 136; John Roberts, 106; John Cramond, 65; William Blaikie, 60; Andrew Grey, 42; William Gill, 36; John Mercer, 34; James Williamson, junr., 28; George Paterson, 21; John Lees, 21; and James Small, 21."

1777 In 1777 the Manufacturers' Corporation was inaugurated, but it would seem that only a portion of those engaged in the trade at that period were connected with it. The following is the official record of its formation,—

"Galashiels, the last day of December, one thousand seven hundred and seventy seven years, the following manufacturers met and thought it convenient to be constituted and erected into a Corporation, and immediately a seal of cause was wrote upon stamp paper by Mr James Blaikie, schoolmaster, and signed by Mr Scott of Gala. The Constitutors were, James Williamson, George Mercer, Thomas Blaikie, John Cramond, William Gill, James Small, John Lees, Robert Grieve, John Roberts, and Andrew Grey, who all agreed to meet once a year on the above mentioned day and settle such things as might come before them."

1785 This arrangement continued till 1785, when the date of the meeting was changed, as thus recorded,—

"Being gathered into a greater body, they choose the day after Michaelmas Fair, thinking it a more convenient season for their public procession."

Previous to this time no minute of their proceedings nor list of members had been kept, and the following names of the Deacons, with the dates of their appointment, are all that is recorded for the subsequent six years,—

"1785, James Mercer. 1786, John Roberts. 1787, Richard Lees.  
1788, Adam Cochrane. 1789, Robert Walker. 1790, William Johnstone."

1790 In 1790 the Corporation consisted of the following members, viz.:—



"William Johnstone, Darlingshaugh.	George Mercer, Wilderhaugh.
Robert Walker, „	James Mercer, „
John Lees, Buckholmside.	Andrew Henderson, Galashiels.
Richard Lees, „	Robert Gill, Galashiels.
James Walker, „	John Roberts, „
Hugh Sanderson, Galashiels.	James Roberts, „
Alexander Small, „	Andrew Gray, „
Adam Cochrane, „	David Grieve, „
William Berry, „	James Sanderson, Gordon.
Walter Messer, Lauder.	Alex. Sanderson, Melrose.
John Gray, Dryburgh.	Robert Boyd, Stow.
John Nicol, Melrose."	

In the official records no mention is hitherto made of any laws in connection with the Corporation. In 1790 the following regulations were drawn up and agreed to,—

- "I.—That each member shall have an indenture on his apprentice before the expiration of fourteen days, under the penalty of half-a-crown, and if six weeks, what the trade shall think proper, and the money to be paid into the public funds.
- II.—That any manufacturer in the town or neighbourhood of Galashiels who is not a member shall pay one shilling stg. for each pair of shears that is ground upon the stone belonging to the trade, whereas each member only pays one penny stg., for each pair.
- III.—That if any member of the Corporation shall have sons, any one of them who has served an apprenticeship to any master of the trade within the Corporation shall be received a member and have a right to all the privileges thereof upon paying into the common box of the trade, for the eldest son two shillings and sixpence stg., and any other of the sons of the same family shall pay for their admission as other apprentices within the Corporation, viz., five shillings stg.
- IV.—That those who have served an apprenticeship without the Corporation shall not be allowed the privileges thereof under the sum of seven shillings stg.
- V.—Each master shall pay into the trades box two shillings and sixpence stg. for each of his apprentices at their entry to him, likewise the sons of members shall pay the same excepting the eldest son, who is free."

The articles belonging to the Corporation at this period were:—A teasing "willow," or "willy," as it was generally termed, which was procured in 1782. This machine was driven

by hand and teased all the wool used in the village. It was put up to auction annually, and the lessee was obliged not to charge more than "two pence per stone at most and as much less as he pleases." There was also a grinding stone of large diameter which was required for sharpening the shears used in cropping the cloth. It occupied an erection adjoining the Waulkmillhead Mill. A pair of smith's bellows, a flag and sashes used in the annual procession, and a chest for holding the same completed the list. The flag was destroyed on the occasion of a Michaelmas dinner a number of years ago, but nothing is known regarding the ultimate fate of the sashes. So far as can be learned, the design and motto of the flag in question was similar to that of the Dyers' Corporation, which is now carefully preserved in the reading room of the Public Library.

In the columns of the *British Chronicle* of January 1st, 1790, reference is thus made to the infant industry,—

"Woollen mills have been erected at Hawick and Galashiels, and notwithstanding the great obstruction to manufactories arising from the scarcity of fuel, the woollen manufacture is likely to be established in the border counties of Scotland. It is with additional pleasure we hear that the gentlemen in that part of Scotland propose to give the only effectual encouragement to the growing manufacture by using it for livery cloth for their servants, an example worthy of imitation in any other part of the country where the woollen trade is established."

A few months afterwards the following paragraph appeared in the same publication,—

"We congratulate our readers on the prosperity of the manufactures of this country, particularly the woollen. The improvements in this branch in the small town of Galashiels are really surprising. To their praise be it said that their broad-cloths, baize, and blankets may vie with some, nay, with many of our southern neighbours, not less a sum than £65 being allotted them as premiums on their woollen articles for last year.

'O the bra' lads o' Gala Water.'

It gives the most flattering prospects of the rising genius, industry, and perseverance of the manufacturers of that village."

At this time there were forty-three looms in the village, and about two hundred and forty women belonging to the district

were employed in spinning yarn for the Galashiels trade, the price paid per slip being sixpence, and this quantity was considered a fair day's work.

Hand cards for preparing the wool for spinning had been used for centuries, but it was not till the middle of the eighteenth century that any attempt was made to improve these primitive appliances. The first improvement consisted in fixing a large card upon a table, and suspending over it two smaller ones called stock cards. By this means double the amount of work could be got through in a day compared with the old system. Another primitive method of carding the wool was by means of what was termed a "Scribble Dick," which was used in the village in the early years of the trade.

The earliest mode of spinning was by means of the distaff, and this served the purpose till the middle of the fourteenth century, when spinning by wheel was invented. The "muckle wheel" was generally used in this district. The appliance consisted of a fly wheel with a broad rim, carrying a cord which set the spindle in motion. The spinner imparted a rapid motion to the wheel, and, as it continued to revolve, she moved slowly backwards, thus drawing out and spinning the "rowin'," as the prepared wool was termed, to the required grist. When sufficient twist had been imparted to the thread it was wound on the spindle, and a fresh impetus being given to the wheel, the operation was repeated. As the trade extended, a more expeditious method of producing yarn was required, and about the year 1754, Hargreave, Arkwright, and others invented the spinning jenny, which caused a revolution in textile manufactures. Machinery driven by water or steam power was applied to carding and spinning, and subsequent inventors have brought these machines to a high degree of perfection.

## CHAPTER VI.

1791 **T**HE year 1791 was an important one in the history of the woollen trade in Galashiels, and a new era dawned upon the manufacturing of woollen yarn. Carding machines had been invented in 1760, and were in use in England. In 1784 George Mercer, manufacturer in Wilderhaugh Mill, went to Leeds for the purpose of improving his knowledge in the manufacturing of woollen cloth, where he saw the machines at work. In 1791 he procured a scribbler and shortly afterwards he added a carder, a billy with twenty-six, and a jenny with thirty-six spindles. An addition was made to the mill for the purpose of containing the new machinery, this being the first woollen factory in Scotland in the modern sense of the word. James Roberts of Galashiels had also procured a jenny with twenty-four spindles, his son having learned to spin in England, and thus the tedious, unsatisfactory, and expensive hand process was superseded. It was not long ere public attention was directed to the advantages to be derived from the new method; wool was now spun by machinery for fourpence halfpenny per slip. The total quantity manufactured in the village in 1791 had risen to 2916 stones.

The manufacturers in Hawick were the first to avail themselves of the improved system. Instead of continuing their old practice of distributing wool in small quantities among women in that town, they sent batches weighing from forty to fifty lbs. to Galashiels to be carded by the new machinery. As at that date there was no road between the two towns for wheeled traffic, the wool was carried in panniers slung across the back of a pony. The carrier left Hawick with a batch of wool and returned with the previous batch carded ready for spinning.

The new carding machines consisted of two single cylinders, a scribbler and carder, the former thirty-two inches and the

latter twenty-seven inches wide. What was termed a "set" of this description produced from forty-eight to seventy-two lbs. of "rowin'" per day according to the quality of the wool. In connection with the different processes in the manufacture of cloth, employment was provided for about thirty persons for each set of machines at work. At this time the weekly value of finished goods was about £50, consisting of fourteen pieces each twenty-four yards long, at the average price of three shillings per yard. Labour was poorly paid, the wages of a journeyman dyer being £5 per annum and board. The goods were twenty-seven inches wide, dyed in the piece, raised with hand cards, and cropped with hand shears. They were heavily felted after being dyed, and the principal desideratum in a finished piece was to have it firm in the texture and lustrous on the face, this being accomplished by raising, cropping, and hot pressing. The shearing or cropping of the cloth had always been a difficult and expensive operation, and was performed in the following manner,—the cloth being stretched over a frame in front of the workman, was brushed over with hand cards for the purpose of raising the loose fibres of the wool and laying them all in one direction. When the whole web was gone over in this manner it was passed to the "clipper," whose apparatus consisted of a long stool, or bench, the top of which was cushioned, and a pair of large and peculiarly shaped shears. These shears measured four feet three inches in length, the blades being twenty-four inches long by six inches in width. One of them was curved to fit the top of the cushion, the other being set up at a right angle, and the edge hollowed to correspond to the circle on the other blade. At the other end of the shears was a bow spring about fourteen inches in diameter; the whole apparatus was bulky and cumbersome in the highest degree, weighing no less than thirty-five pounds. So far as known, only two pairs are in existence, one in the possession of R. & A. Sanderson & Co., Gala Mills, and the other is preserved at Beechwood by Andrew H. Herbertson. Owing to their size, weight, and peculiar form, there was some difficulty experienced

in getting them properly ground, but this was at length overcome by bringing a professional cutler from Sheffield to do the work. The raising is now done by teasles, fixed in a cylinder, which require to be brought from the south of England or France, the climate of Scotland being found unsuitable for growing them. Cropping is now much better done by the "Yankee," an American invention, brought to Galashiels by James Paterson in 1819.

The introduction of the machinery had evidently given an impetus to the trade, as on March 24th, 1791, it is recorded that a number of the members of the Manufacturers' Corporation met at the house of William Johnstone, Deacon, and agreed that a Cloth Hall should be built in the village for the reception and sale of woollen goods. For easily ascertaining the share of each individual, it was agreed that shelves be erected and a rent of forty shillings per annum charged for each shelf. The remainder of the building not occupied by the members of the Corporation was to be let to non-subscribers, and the proceeds applied to any purpose the Corporation thought proper. It was also agreed that no member could have less than one, or more than three shelves, on any pretext whatever. The members of the Corporation who applied for shelves were,—

"Richard Lees,	1;	Andrew Henderson,	1;	Alexander Small,	1.
Hugh Sanderson,	1;	James Roberts,	1;	George Mercer,	3.
William Johnston,	2;	Robert Walker,	2;	Adam Cochrane,	2.
James Walker,	2;	David Grieve,	2;	Robert Gill,	2."

No time was lost, and an advertisement was issued in these terms,—

"As a Cloth Hall is to be built at Galashiels for the reception and sale of woollen goods, any person willing to contract for the mason and wright work, slating, and plastering, either together or separately, may see the plans, and be informed of particulars by applying to William Johnston, clothier, Galashiels, and it is desired that tradesmen will attend with their estimates at the house of Thomas Cleghorn, Galashiels Mill, on Saturday, 7th May, 1791, at four o'clock afternoon, when they will be taken into consideration, and a bargain concluded."

The foundation-stone of the Hall was laid on 4th June, and  
 "The Corporation, with a number of patriotic gentlemen, walked in procession from the deacon's to the cross, and laid the foundation-stone with the usual ceremony, then returned to Mrs Craig's and spent the remaining part of the evening in the most convivial manner."

During the progress of the work, the following advertisement was issued,—

"A Hall is building at Galashiels for the reception and sale of woollen goods. Subscribers to the Hall of one guinea shall be proprietors to that extent, admitted members of the Incorporation of Clothiers, and entitled to attend and vote at their annual meetings. Manufacturers recommended by two or more subscribers shall be allowed the use of the Hall for selling their goods at an easier rate than others who are not subscribers, or recommended by two or more of them."

In response to this announcement the undernoted gentlemen qualified themselves for membership by contributing the required amount,—

"James Pringle, Torwoodlee.	John Tod, Kirklands.
Andrew Davidson, Middleton.	Lord Napier.
Earl of Buchan.	Mark Pringle, Fernielea.
Andrew Ogilvie of Branksholm.	Sir James Pringle, Stichell.
Sir Henry Hay.	Archibald Gibson, Ladhope.
Sir Walter Elliot of Stobs.	Adam Knox, Galashiels.
Sir G. Douglas of Springwoodpark.	Thomas Curor, Brownmuir.
John Rutherford, Edgerston.	Rev. Robert Douglas, Galashiels.
Andrew Plummer, Sunderlandhall.	William Harr of Harrfield.
Alexander Pringle of Whytbank.	Peter Oliver.
Thomas Ogilvie of Chesters.	Thomas Cleghorn, Galashiels.
Right Hon. Mr Baillie of Mellarston.	Mr Green, Newcastle
Captain Scott of Gala, 26th Regiment.	Archibald Tod, Drygrange.
Joseph Waugh, London.	Mr Wilson, 6 Old Bond Street London.
John Watson, Crosslee.	John Brown, Leeds.
Adam Mercer, Bow.	Richard Sheriff.
Alexander Scott, Ashkirk.	William Simpson, Headshaw.
R. Hogarth, Carfrae.	John Simpson, Adinstone.
J. Stewart, Byrewalls.	J. Fisher, Clackmae.
Charles Simpson, Longcroft.	Peter Mirtle, Boon.
Robert Paterson, Tollishill.	John Murray, Skaithmuir.
John Thomson, Little Swinton.	John Murray, Clarilaw.
Robert Horsburgh, Colquhare.	Thomas Gibson, Cardrona.
John Simpson, Dimpleknowe.	Thomas Horsburgh, Lee."

In addition to the foregoing contributions, smaller amounts were also received, raising the total to £68, 5s 6d, of which James Pringle of Torwoodlee procured subscriptions amounting to £23, 19s, and John Watson, Crosslee, £20, 19s.

The Hall cost £230, to meet which there were the above subscriptions of £68, 5s 6d, a bill for £100 from John Bathgate of Claydubs, which was endorsed by Adam Cochrane and Richard Lees; and a further sum of £61, 6s was borrowed from Melrose Kirk Session on the security of Richard Lees, George Mercer, and Robert Gill, both sums bearing interest at five per cent.

At length the building was completed, and on the 11th October, 1791, the Corporation signalled the event by holding within it the annual Michaelmas dinner, at which seventy-two gentlemen were present. At the same meeting the following members of the Corporation were chosen directors, viz. :—David Grieve, Deacon; Robert Walker, Quarter-master; Richard Lees, Quarter-master and Clerk; Adam Cochrane, Box-master; Robert Gill, Standard-bearer; and Adam Young, Officer.

The Hall was opened for the reception and sale of goods on 1792 the 30th July, 1792, when upwards of 3300 yards of cloth were exposed for sale, which was nearly cleared off in ten minutes, at an average price of three shillings per yard.

The income of the Corporation was at this time derived from the rent of the shelves in the Hall, which, for the first year, amounted to £40; entry money for apprentices, entries to the trade, rent for the “willy,” charge for the use of the grinding stone, fines for non-attendance at meetings of the Corporation, tax levied on all cloth lodged in the Hall, rent from non-members, and rent of Hall for public and other meetings.

In consequence of the unsatisfactory attendance of the members at the Corporation meetings, it was found necessary to make the following addition to the rules,—

“VII.—That any member refusing to appear at the Hall, or any other house in the town, when the deacon along with the advice of his committee thinks proper to call a meeting, shall pay immediately unto the clerk a fine of one shilling, such refusing to pay will be debarred the use of the Hall till such time as they shall make payment of the said fine.”



At the annual meeting on the 11th October, 1792, Robert Gill was elected Deacon for the following year, and on the next day the "willy" was let for the year to James Roberts for the sum of nine shillings. In 1793 the following were admitted members, viz. :—James Johnstone, William Haldane, and Thomas Rae, the last of whom obtained the "willy" for that year at a rent of three shillings. At the end of the term it was again exposed for competition; but it is evident that it had served its day, as Andrew Henderson secured it for two shillings, and nothing further is recorded concerning it.

At this time the price paid for weaving, including winding and preparing the yarn, was from twopence to threepence farthing per yard. The average wage of a weaver was one shilling and sevenpence per day, and a journeyman clothier received four shillings per week and board. There were thirteen employers in the village, giving employment to fifty persons.

## CHAPTER VII.

<sup>1797</sup> **I**N 1797 it was evident that a fair measure of success had attended the efforts put forth by the members of the Corporation. The number of jennies had increased to eighteen, with the prospect of a further addition in the near future. These in many cases were erected in the garrets of dwelling-houses, and were of course operated by manual labour. There is no mention of the number of carding machines in use at this time. Owing to the limited capital at the disposal of the manufacturers, a set of carding machinery was a heavy order, and few of them possessed such. Joint stock companies were formed, each shareholder having the use of the machines for a certain time, calculated according to the amount of capital he had invested. The quantity of wool used in the year had now risen to 4944 stones, costing on an average from fourteen to fifteen shillings per stone. Some of it cost from twenty-one to thirty shillings, and as much as forty-five shillings per stone had been paid for small quantities of superior quality. The Cheviot fleece possessed qualities almost akin to Merino, and out of the picked sorts beautiful fabrics could be manufactured. In those days yarn was spun to a degree of fineness that would surprise those who are only acquainted with modern machinery. Four different buildings had been erected for teasing, scribbling, and carding, viz., Wilderhaugh Mill, Ladhope Mill, Botany Mill, and the Mid Mill, all possessing water power. Broad looms were procured for making blankets eleven quarters wide, and machines had been erected for raising the pile upon the cloth so that it might be more equally cropped, also for brushing away all coarse piles and other substances which might adhere to it before it was subjected to the shears and after it came from the press. There were also improved presses, larger and stronger than those formerly used, and ovens for heating the metal plates, which were employed in the process of pressing.

A cylinder had also been procured for glazing worsted stuffs. These and other improvements were made at a cost of about £3000 besides the aid afforded by the Board of Trustees. The result justified the outlay, the manufacturers were now able to produce a larger quantity of cloth of better quality and on shorter notice. Cloth was produced from thirty-two to thirty-six inches wide, at eight shillings per yard, the cheaper kinds being also much improved in width and quality. A considerable amount of what was termed "country work" was also done. The wool and yarn belonging to private families were made into cloth, flannels, blankets, and worsted stuffs for female wear. There were eight fulling mills constantly employed, seventeen clothiers who manufactured cloth on their own account for sale, and about sixty-four employees working at various branches of the trade, besides weavers, whose number had increased to fifty-four. There were also about three hundred women spinning yarn in their own homes. The introduction of the jennies had reduced the number of spinners, but these and other machinery now employed gave work in other directions.

Originally reeling was performed in a very primitive manner, the apparatus merely consisting of a straight rod of a fixed length having a cross piece at each end. This rod was held by the middle with the left hand, the yarn being wound on by the motion of the wrist, guided by the other hand. As it took once round the appliance to make up the requisite length, this involved two motions, which were counted as one. This method was abolished by the invention of the "chack" reel, which was made by inserting four spokes having cross ends into a hub, which turned on a spindle fixed upon a supporting frame. Attached to the frame was a simple mechanism which registered the number of revolutions, at the same time pressing back a spring which was released when the cut was complete, giving a sharp click as it sprang back into its original position against the frame. This idea was again extended to a long reel, operated by hand, and latterly the hand labour has been discarded, its place being now supplied by power.

The following verses were written by a member of the Corporation named George Murray. Whence he came and whither he went are alike unknown. He was Deacon of the Corporation 1801 in 1801, and his name appears in the list of winners of premiums between 1802 and 1805. These verses are all that remain to testify to his existence and rhyming abilities. In the early years of the century it was a favourite song in the village, and was always received with great acceptance at the annual celebration of the Michaelmas festivities.

## THE SPINNIN' O'T.

In the days o' lang syne, when auld grannie was young,  
An' the warl' wi' her was beginning o't,  
Wi' her cairds an' her wheel i' the neuk she sat doon,  
To mak' a braw web wi' the spinnin' o't.

But the folks now-a-days are a' turned sae braw,  
The laird an' the farmer, the cottar an' a',  
That the cairds are laid by, an' the wheel flung awa',  
And mills maun be built for the spinnin' o't.

On the palace-like fabric the stranger may gaze,  
An' wondering speir the beginning o't;  
An' when they have told him his mind's in a maze,  
To think it was dune wi' the spinnin' o't.

Industry's a virtue that's no' easy dung,  
An' here it is practised by baith auld and young;  
For wee things afore they can weel use their tongue,  
Are tied to the task o' the spinning o't.

That village that stands by the banks o' the Tweed,  
Deserves aye the praise for beginning o't;  
For making o' claith wi' a braw even thread,  
Her bairns are a' guid at the spinning o't.

When by emulation their minds get a heeze,  
For premiums offered by the Board o' Trustees;  
Then auld Gala's callants, they strive aye to please,  
An' gain the applause for the spinnin' o't.

Auld Scottish Maggy's aye kind to her ain,  
 She had a great care in beginning o't;  
 An' when they do weel it makes her fu' fain,  
 To see them grow guid at the spinnin' o't.

And you, her dear lasses, sae couthie an' kind,  
 May a' yet get sweethearts, a lad to your mind;  
 An' when that ye'er marriet ye'll no' be behind  
 To lend them a hand at the spinnin' o't.

1803      The following unique letter was written at this time by an Edinburgh merchant to a Galashiels firm. It testifies to the estimation in which the "blue claith" was held, and the anxiety displayed to secure a supply.

"EDINBURGH, 1st June, 1803.

MESSRS GEORGE MERCER & SONS.

GENTLEMEN,

Your letter of yesterday's date is now before me. The contents are a disgrace to common sense, to decency, to candour, and particularly to men of business.

I gave you an order so far back as 21st August last, on 25th December repeated the order. On 1st April I begged you to execute it, and about a fortnight ago wrote you by post to send only two pieces.

In place of executing these orders you grossly insulted me by saying in your letter of yesterday that I can be equally well served by applying to Clapperton for your goods as he receives them weekly.

Pray, gentlemen, do you understand what you say? How is it possible I can be so well served with your goods from Clapperton, when his profit must be added to yours, unless on the real principle of trade, that you all along have overcharged me?

I have laid your letter before a man of business and mentioned the circumstances; he says it is actionable.

In the first place, it is actionable because I can prove that before yesterday's letter you never said that you could not serve me, on the contrary the last time you was here you said to more persons than myself that you could serve us all well now.

In the second place, I can prove that my business has suffered from want of these goods, as some of my best customers still wait to be served, relying on my word that, according to the last conversation I had with you, you would be faithful to your engagement.

In the third place, I can prove that I refused giving an order, although solicited, for Galashiels light blues, because you had promised to execute my order.

Gentlemen, to be serious, I am determined, if the last two pieces I wrote for last do not come with the next week's carrier, to summon you before the Court of Session for damages, which I hope will be ample.

If I had been a bad payer, or a man of doubtful character, there would remain some shadow of excuse, but, as the reverse is the case, I am called on for the vindication of character, credit, and reputation, to put a stop to such an outrage to fair trade, as you have been guilty of.

It is a pity that the whole circumstances of the case should not be printed, and distributed through every manufacturing town in Great Britain.

I am, Gentlemen, Yours etc.,

THOMAS HERIOT."

Whether or not the threatened action took place cannot now be ascertained. Though not disseminated as the irate and long-suffering merchant desired, after nearly a century has elapsed the printing of his letter has become an accomplished fact. It displays the many difficulties which the pioneers of the trade had to contend with,—not to procure orders, as is too often the case at the present day, but to fulfil those that would almost appear to have come unsought.

1804 At the annual meeting held in 1804 the Corporation made the following enactment for the regulation of journeymen, which is signed by the whole members at that period,—

"We, the Corporation, find it for our advantage that no journeyman can be received into our service unless he has served a regular apprenticeship for a term of not less than three years.

If any of us transgress this rule, a penalty of not less than five pounds stg. for each offence shall be inflicted as the majority may think proper.

George Paterson, Deacon.	A. Brodie.	John Lees, jun.
James Bathgate & Son.	Thomas Clapperton.	Alex. Pringle.
Adam Dobson.	William Roberts.	William Brown.
Andrew Clapperton.	James Sime.	George Murray.
W. & D. Thomson.	Robert Walker, jun.	John Lees & Son.
George Roberts.	James Johnstone.	Joshua Wood.
John Roberts.	Geo. Mercer & Sons.	Adam Cochrane.
David Grieve.	Hugh Sanderson.	Robert Gill.

1805 From the pages of an old ledger which belonged to one of the above members of the Corporation some light is thrown upon the conditions under which the trade was carried on at this time. The entries extend till 1818. So far as the owner of

this book was concerned, he appears to have done business throughout the counties of Midlothian, Fife, Forfar, Kincardine, Aberdeen, Banff, Elgin, Perth, and Stirling, with a very limited connection in the shires of Selkirk and Berwick. Not only were the larger towns visited, but in certain districts every village held a customer. Owing to the book being a ledger, the prices of the goods do not appear, though, in crediting returns, reference is sometimes made to "D Blues at 5s 3d per yard." The accounts represent sums ranging between £4 and £56, bills at three and four months are common, and the entries "By dividend," "Bad debt," and "Goods returned" occur much more frequently than the struggling manufacturer would relish.

1806 In 1806, it was found that another regulation had become necessary, and, judging from the amount of the penalty, the grievance must have been rather severely felt. The reform was as undernoted,—

"We, the clothiers in Galashiels, bind and oblige ourselves not to engage or hire any servant that may, or has been previously engaged by any of us, until his term of engagement has expired, under the penalty of £20 stg., and not less than £5 stg.

We further agree and bind ourselves not to keep or allow to work at our trade any person after the term of six weeks, without an indenture acknowledged to be just by the deacon of the trade, under the penalty as above mentioned."

Non-attendance at the meetings appears to have been a chronic grievance, and the following rule was adopted,—

1808 "Be it enacted after this date that any member of the Corporation showing a contempt of the Deacon's orders by refusing to attend when he judges to call a meeting, shall be fined of the sum of fifteen shillings stg. unless he can give a satisfactory excuse."

When the Cloth Hall was built, Dr Douglas advanced the sum of £1000, and from this fund each member of the Corporation received two-thirds of the value of his cloth deposited there, the balance being paid when the cloth was sold. The following statement, drawn up by Dr Douglas, shows the state of this account for the years 1810-11, at which date the concern was finally wound up,—

## "ACCOUNT OF INTEREST DUE BY CLOTHIERS' CO. TO DR DOUGLAS.

1810	1810.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Feb.	8—Balance due to Dr Douglas, ...	35	6	1			
Mar.	16—Interest thereon to 16th March—36 days,				3	5½	
Mar.	16—Drew ... ..	30	0	0			
April	13—Interest on this sum till 13th April—28 days,	5	6	1	4½		
	Paid £30 and £18, 18s, ...	48	18	0			
May	23—Interest on this sum till 23rd May—40 days,	54	4	1	5	11	
	Drew ... ..	27	0	0			
June	11—Interest on this sum to 11th June—19 days,	27	4	1	1	4½	
	Drew ... ..	70	0	0			
	Balance due Clothiers; Interest till 27th						
	June—16 days, ..	42	15	11			
June	27—Paid ... ..	27	0	0			
	Balance due Clothiers; Interest till 25th						
	July—28 days, ...	15	15	11			
July	25—Paid ... ..	789	10	9			
Aug.	3—Interest on this sum till 3rd August—8 days,	773	14	10	16	11½	
	Drew ... ..	300	0	0			
Aug.	4—Interest to 4th August—1 day, ...	473	14	10	1	3½	
„	4—Drew ... ..	30	0	0			
„	8—Interest till 8th August—4 days, ...	443	14	10	4	10	
	Drew ... ..	100	0	0			
„	14—Interest till 14th August—6 days, ...	343	14	10	4	6½	
	Paid ... ..	80	0	0			
„	22—Interest on this sum till 22nd August—8 days,	423	14	10	9	0½	
	Drew £180 and paid £40, hence drew	140	0	0			
„	25—Interest to 25th August—3 days ...	283	14	10	2	3½	
	Drew ... ..	60	0	0			
„	29—Interest to 29th August—4 days, ...	223	14	10	2	5	
	Drew ... ..	50	0	0			
	Carry Forward, £173 14 10						



ACCOUNT OF INTEREST DUE BY CLOTHIERS' CO. TO DR DOUGLAS, *Continued.*

			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1810		<i>Brought forward,</i>	173	14	10			
Sept. 12	—Interest for 14 days,	...					6	7
	Drew	...	50	0	0			
Oct. 10	—Interest to 10th October—28 days	...	123	14	10		9	5
	Paid,	...	28	0	0			
„ 17	—Interest to 17th October—7 days,	...	151	14	10		2	10½
	Paid £70 and drew £30. Paid	...	40	0	0			
Nov. 13	—Interest to 13th November—27 days,	...	191	14	10		14	1½
	Paid	...	70	0	0			
„ 20	—Interest to 20th November—7 days,	...	261	14	10		5	0
	Drew £30 and paid £24, 18s 11d, hence drew	...	5	1	1			
„ 21	—Interest thereon to 21st November—1 day,	...	266	15	11			8
	Drew	...	40	0	0			
„ 22	—Interest thereon to 22nd November—1 day,	...	216	14	10			7
	Paid	...	36	0	0			
„ 27	—Interest to 27th November—5 days,	...	252	14	10		3	5
	Drew	...	18	0	0			
„ 28	—Interest to 28th November—1 day,	...	234	14	10			7
	Drew	...	70	0	0			
„ 29	—Interest to 29th November—1 day,	...	164	14	10			5
	Drew	...	40	3	0			
Dec. 12	—Interest thereon to 12th December—13 days,	...	124	11	10		4	3
	Drew	...	100	0	0			
„ 20	—Interest thereon to 20th December—8 days,	...	24	11	10			5½
	Drew	...	50	0	0			
	Balance due Clothiers' Co.; Interest to 26th							
	December—6 days,	...	25	8	2			
„ 26	—Paid	...	70	0	0			
	<i>Carry Forward,</i>		£44	11	10			

1811	1811				£ s. d.	£ s. d.
		Brought forward,			44 11 10	
Jany. 22—Interest for 29 days,	...	...				3 6
Drew	...	...			19 0 0	
Feb. 8—Interest on this sum to 8th February—19						
days,	...	...			25 11 10	1 6
					<hr/>	<hr/>
						5 5 10½
Deduct Interest on £42, 15s 11d for 16 days,					£0 1 10	
" " £15, 15s 11d for 28 days,					1 1½	
" " £25, 8s 2d for 6 days,					4½	
					<hr/>	<hr/>
						3 4
Balance due to Dr Douglas	...	...				5 2 6½
Paid Bank Clerks,	...	...				15 0
						<hr/>
						£5 17 6½"

The first fire in the town in connection with a woollen factory took place in 1811 and resulted in Wilderhaugh Mill being destroyed. The Board of Trustees refused their assistance in re-erecting the building, and in the circumstances George Mercer made a proposal to pay ten per cent. on all amounts which his friends and neighbours might feel disposed to lend him. On these terms he received a considerable amount in sums ranging from £15 to £40, by the help of which the works were again set agoing.

“There was a hosier in Perth, named Alexander Christie, who used to get part of his yarn from Galashiels. He wished to get a description which in quality would resemble the Shetland yarn. With this object in view he gave an order to W. & D. Thomson. They bought the wool from Leith for the

purpose from Cheviot lamb. This they mixed with the pick of the Cheviot fleece, and span the batch to 60 cut. Mr Christie thought this could be improved upon, and to meet his wishes one of Mr Thomson's sons went to Wilderhaugh mill and endeavoured to get it drawn further. It was done as fine as 72 cut on a hand jenny. It was considered if the wool had been carded on Wilderhaugh machines, which were new, in consequence of a fire that had recently occurred, it could have been done to 80 cut. The wool of this batch cost 42s per stone."

1814 The spinning mules were introduced into Galashiels in 1814 by W. & D. Thomson. Most of the earlier jennies had only forty-eight spindles, and when they were increased to seventy-two the work got rather heavy. When they were driven by water power they were increased to 144 spindles, the drawing of the yarn and the winding up being performed by hand. In consequence of the mules having 500 spindles, they were able to produce yarn at a cheaper rate. Owing to the extra number of spindles, the rate paid to the spinner was lowered in a proportionate degree. It is told of this individual, when informed of the new arrangement, that he wanted to know "how many more spindles would require to be added before he would be requested to do his work for nothing?"

A paragraph in the *Kelso Mail* in 1814 states that

"The village of Galashiels is in a state of great animation, the woollen manufacture being uncommonly busy, and a most rapid advancement has been made of late both in the quantity produced and the quality of the goods. They meet a ready market and thereby ensure constant employment for old and young, who with smiling faces hail the long-wished-for return of peace and prosperity."

1816 The question of non-attendance at the Corporation meetings again cropped up, and in 1816 it was found necessary to frame a fresh regulation.

"That in consequence of many of the members absenting themselves from the annual meeting, as also the day following when business is settled and transferred to the succeeding office-bearers, every member who does not appear to give in his apprentices' names and pay their entry, instead of two shillings and sixpence shall pay five shillings."

1819 At a meeting of the Corporation held in 1819 it was unanimously resolved to petition Parliament against the proposed tax upon foreign wool. The following statement was drawn up and presented to the House of Commons by Colonel Lockhart, the member for the county,—

“To the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain  
and Ireland assembled, the petition of the  
Corporation of Clothiers in Galashiels

Humbly sheweth,

That your petitioners never before approached your honourable house with any complaint whatsoever, and, that it is with regret they feel themselves called upon to obtrude their situation on your notice.

For a considerable time past the trade that your petitioners carry on has been under a severe depression, and continues every day to grow worse, so that a crisis seems fast approaching when our labours, which have long ceased to be remunerative, may be suspended altogether, and thereby throw an industrious and quiet population out of employment.

These evils, your petitioners humbly submit, are partially owing to your honourable house having yielded too much to the clamours of the landed interest, who have induced your honourable house to depart from generous and general principles, and adopt a system of partial legislation, founded on an erroneous principle of relieving one class of the community without affecting the other.

Already have the evil effects of this been exemplified in the corn and wool trades, the foreigner has no longer an interest in frequenting our harbours, where he can neither sell nor exchange his commodity, the consequence of which is our relations with other nations are broke off, and the manufactures of the country are every day narrowing to our own limited and internal consumption.

In the midst of the most profound peace, and while our rivals are every day emerging from the effect of the late war, we are suffering from all the evils of a blockade, an indirect policy having given effect to all the mischief the enemy intended when he issued his impotent Berlin and Milan decree, to exclude us from communion with the other nations of Europe.

It becomes your honourable house, that has so gloriously set an example and conferred on Europe the emancipation of the human race, to add another claim to the gratitude of the world in allowing free scope to the industry and ingenuity of mankind.

In our present state, the labourer no longer employed becomes a dangerous burden on the community, his affections are alienated, and he no longer reverences our sacred institutions, under which he does not enjoy any of the comforts or conveniences of life, hence the peace of the country is continually agitated with a distressed and dangerous population.

An influx of wealth always follows a free and extended commerce, and your honourable house should beware, and take a lesson from the experience of ages, which proves that commerce is a sensitive plant that shrinks when touched by the hand of power, and has never flourished but under liberal and enlightened governments.

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c."

The first recorded fatal accident in the town caused by woollen machinery took place in 1819, at Rosebank Mill. A young man named Gill was engaged in putting a belt on a jenny, when he was caught by the apron, and before anything could be done to release him, he was so much injured that he died the same evening.

At this date another fire broke out in Wilderhaugh Mill, by which it was again totally destroyed. It was occasioned by one of the workmen falling asleep about three o'clock in the morning and leaving a candle burning, which ignited some wool. Before it was discovered the fire had obtained so firm a hold that the building was consumed in two hours.

## CHAPTER VIII.

**I**N 1819 the Manufacturers' Corporation presented a silver cup to Dr Douglas, which is now in the hands of his grandson, R. D. Thomson, Edinburgh. The proceedings on that interesting occasion were printed and circulated throughout the district, copies of which in the following terms are still extant,—

“The general and prevailing inclination towards public assemblies has not escaped influencing this little town, although the circumstances may seem a little peculiar at the present time.

The commerce of the town of Galashiels is chiefly founded on their coarse and narrow cloth, it being the staple commodity, which they manufacture with great skill, and which supplies with material advantage the internal demands of the adjacent counties. The beautiful situation of the village near the junction of the Tweed and Gala is improved by a general air of cleanliness and comfort, and rendered picturesque by the numerous small gardens and orchards which are interspersed among the houses.

In the days of general difficulty which followed the last peace Galashiels had her share of the common distress, but its worst consequences were averted by the well-judged and active exertions of their venerable clergyman, the surviving companion of Adam Ferguson, of John Home and other men of genius who distinguished the last generation. Possessed of opulence beyond the usual lot of his profession in Scotland, he hesitated not to pledge his own credit to a great extent to relieve the difficulties arising from the sudden check given to former facilities for carrying on business. His assistance was so wisely and effectually distributed that, while he did infinite service to the manufacturers, he experienced no loss of any consequence, and had the satisfaction of having preserved the credit of his worthy and industrious parishioners, by a confidence as judiciously placed, as it was in itself generous and well timed. These services were not forgotten, and, at the Clothiers' annual meeting this year they resolved to gratify their own feelings and those of Dr Douglas by presenting to him a piece of plate with an inscription, which should commemorate their gratitude. As their meeting for this purpose was unusually important, they requested from their neighbour, Mr Walter Scott, Sheriff of the County, permission for his piper (John of Skye) to attend upon their conviviality. This request was conveyed in the following poetical epistle, written by David Thomson, very well expressed, and was, of course, very willingly complied with,—

Although we are nae burgh toon,  
 At times we like for to be vogie;  
 An' when the Michaelmas comes roun',  
 We tak' our dinner and a cogie.

The yeomen round are a' invited  
 (Woo' sellers drawing to woo' buyers),  
 An' if we thought we'd no' be slightet,  
 We'd welcome a' the neebrin' squires.

We hae some flags, but no' that kind  
 Sedition's sons of late unfurled;  
 Our mottoes to the arts inclined,  
 Breathe peace and commerce o'er the world.

If e'er we come to get a vote,  
 Our trusty freend and worthy neebour,  
 Your merit shan'na be forgot;  
 We ken ye are a special pleader.

A few years back, an' oor bit toun  
 Was scarcely kenned for arts and knowledge;  
 Noo wheels an' wheels rin endless roun',  
 An' Mr Fyshe has got a college.

Oor lofts are a' weel filled wi' woo',  
 An' simmer's gane, an' winter's comin';  
 A guid sharp frost wad serve us noo,  
 An' set oor spindles a' a bummin'.

Nae vagrants loiter in oor street,  
 Nane reads the *Scotsman* in the toun;  
 Cheap woo' enables us to meet  
 Oor bills, an' keeps reforming doon.

Some think we spin oor yarn owre sma',  
 But that's a faut that micht be mendit;  
 Baith verse an' thread ye may owredraw,  
 An' make them langer than intendit.

Ye hae a piper, John o' Skye,  
 We heard him play, an' like his chanter;  
 October twelfth send him owre by  
 To gie our lassies "Rob, the Ranter."

If ye wad grant this sma' request,  
 In matters mair ye may refuse us;  
 John's horn shall be filled o' the best  
 To drink his master and the Muses."

The Clothiers held their Michaelmas meeting on Tuesday last, and, on the same day, presented a handsome silver cup to their excellent and venerable pastor. All the villagers, clad in their best, marched in procession to the manse in order to witness the presentation. After they had taken up their position round the garden, so that each might see what was going on, the good old man was led out to the landing at the head of the front door steps by his two daughters. Upon seeing how severe had been the ravages of time upon their pastor, many burst into tears. The Doctor himself could not speak nor see; but, when the cup was put into his hands, he lifted up his face to the sky, and those who were near him saw great tears coursing down his cheeks. Neither could his daughters, who were standing beside him, refrain, and there was scarce one among the hundreds of spectators whose cheeks were not moistened with tears. When the old man was led into the house the band played 'Auld Lang Syne,' and the gathering slowly dispersed.

The cup bore the following inscription, composed by David Thomson, manufacturer,—

‘Hail, reverend Doctor! dearer still,  
Now, when thy life is all down hill.  
There was a time, not yet far gone,  
When you stood forth, and stood alone.  
When our frail bark was tempest-tossed,  
And neared the shallow, rocky coast,  
You cheered the crew. A favouring gale,  
Auspicious, filled the swelling sail,  
The vessel stands again to sea,  
And rides the waves triumphantly.  
Now, in the autumn of your days,  
Accept this tribute of our praise  
To cheer thee in thy latter end,  
Our guide, our pastor, and our friend.’

The Clothiers dined together upon this occasion, and the healths were drunk of John Scott of Gala, the lord of the village and the active encourager of its prosperity; of their neighbour, James Pringle, Esq. of Torwoodlee; of their distinguished Sheriff, who, excelling in whatever he undertakes, is equally loved and admired by these kindly people; of their worthy banker, Mr Craig; and other favourers of their manufacture and trade were not forgotten.

On Wednesday, to finish the festivity, the ‘Braw Lads o’ Gala Water,’ with their colours flying and pipes playing, marched up the north side of Tweed, and made their salutation to the Sheriff when they arrived opposite the house of Abbotsford with such expressions of mutual kindness as the river, then in high flood, permitted them to exchange from the opposite bank.

It is true all this sounds flat and tame compared with meetings of manufacturers in other districts, solemnized with all the pomp of oratory, and



watched, rather than guarded, with all the panoply of military preparation, yet, a good dinner and a cheerful glass are worth a speech even from Mr Hunt, and our old-fashioned prejudices love to hear of gratitude to a benefactor, though he be priest of the parish, and esteemed for his divinity, as much as for his patriotism.

There is something kindly in hearing of the meeting of a body of men whose banners bear the peaceful emblems of their own industry instead of aspirations after impossibilities, whose convocations require from their provincial magistrate only the joyous minstrelsy of his piper, and who have no occasion for the attendance of the yeomanry of the county, unless for the purpose of purchasing their wool. Long live the braw lads of Gala Water, and may their good sense and grateful spirit meet both applause and imitation. If any radical should venture among them, he is like to learn the flavour of the 'Sour plums of Galashiels.'

This procession to Abbotsford is evidently that referred to by Scott in a letter to Lord Montague, dated 12th November, 1819, in which he states,—

"I wish I had any news to send your lordship, but the best is we are all quiet here. The Galashiels weavers, both men and masters, have made their political creed known unto me, and have sworn themselves anti-radical.

They came in solemn procession with their banners, with my own piper at their head, whom they had borrowed for the nonce. But, the Tweed being in flood, we could only communicate like Wallace and Bruce across the Carron. However, two deputies came through in the boat, and made me acquainted with their loyal purpose.

The evening was crowned with two most distinguished actions, the weavers refusing in the most peremptory manner to accept of a couple of guineas to buy whisky, and the renowned John of Skye, piper in ordinary to the Laird of Abbotsford, no less steadily refusing a very handsome collection which they offered him for his minstrelsy."

Lockhart, in his life of Scott, throws light upon the state of the country at that period, and furnishes the motive for the above demonstration. He thus writes,—

"Toward the close of the year 1819 there prevailed an alarming spirit of insubordination among the mining population of Northumberland and the weavers in the West of Scotland, and Mr Walter Scott was particularly gratified at finding his own neighbours at Galashiels had escaped the contagion. There can be little doubt that exemption was principally owing to the personal influence and authority of the Laird of Abbotsford and Sheriff of the Forest. But the people of Galashiels were also fortunate in the qualities of their landlords, Mr Scott of Gala and Mr Pringle of Torwoodlee."

## CHAPTER IX.

THE kindly feeling existing between the Clothiers of Galashiels and their neighbour, the Laird of Abbotsford, found expression at this time, on the occasion of his being raised to the dignity of baronet. On the 12th April, 1820, the Clothiers and others met, to the number of fifty, to celebrate the event in the New Inn in Bank Street, where they dined, George Craig being in the chair. When Sir Walter's health was drunk the following song, composed by David Thomson, was sung in grand style by Andrew Hislop to a delighted audience, who were highly gratified that their feelings should have been embodied in verse on such an interesting occasion,—

“The Thames, long of Britain the glory and pride,  
Must now yield to Scotland and lovely Tweedside;  
For the harp lies unstrung in fair Twickenham's bowers,  
And the roses of Windsor have shed their last flowers.

The Muses, distracted with bustle and noise,  
Have fled to fair Scotland's sweet pastoral joys;  
On the banks of the Yarrow their gambols are seen,  
Where Hogg leads the dance in the ‘Wake of the Queen.’

But chiefly, oh Tweed, in thy green grassy vale,  
They love thy sweet breezes of health to inhale;  
Where the abbey of Melrose lifts its honoured head,  
And Abbotsford rises, the grace of the Tweed.

All hail! thou sweet minstrel, the pride of our clime,  
Whose song lifts the soul to fair virtue sublime;  
May the Muses, enraptured, still lighten your hours,  
And on the mild evening of life shed their flowers.

Oh! great is the power that to genius is given,  
To lighten the earth with the halo of heaven,  
To break through the clouds of detraction that rise,  
And scatter the shades of the deepest disguise.

Ah! love you to charm and enlighten our isle,  
 To share both the people and sovereign's smile;  
 We rejoice in the favour that altered your lot  
 And raised up plain Walter to Sir Walter Scott.

While Tweed shall roll on in her sylvan career,  
 Thy name shall be honoured, and hallowed thy bier;  
 While the peasant shall point to thy turrets so fair,  
 And say, the great minstrel, Sir Walter, dwelt there."

1821 When the annual festival approached in 1821 the Corporation resolved to invite Sir Walter to partake of their hospitality. Accordingly, the Muse was again invoked by David Thomson, who wrote the following invitation,—

"Another year has o'er us flown,  
 A year disgraced by many a riot;  
 A blessing on our little town,  
 We've never been an hour unquiet.

Wi' plenty wark and plenty bread,  
 The politics they but amuse us;  
 Our liberties we dinna dread,  
 And ken the knaves that wad confuse us.

Another year has o'er us flown,  
 And ye have risen to high station;  
 There's nae preferment that's been shown  
 That's gi'en mair pleasure to the nation.

Lang was the minstrel's art despised,  
 And a' that tried the occupation;  
 We're by a' sober ffolk advised  
 That it wad lead them to starvation.

But when a poet's made a knight,  
 Sic jibes can be endured nae langer;  
 Aneath your banneret they'll fight,  
 To shield them frae sic senseless clamour.

But, to the point! Last year ye said  
 As lang as ye a piper keepit,  
 Ye wad him send to oor parade,  
 Whene'er his services were needit.

## HISTORY OF GALASHIELS.

If John o' Skye has nae objection,  
Ye'll warn him for the eleventh October;  
We'll send him back wi' circumspection,  
And boat him either drunk or sober.

We hae the promise of the Laird,  
Sin' he to gentle Hope was married  
(A lady worthy his regard),  
He like a saint at home has tarried.

Oh! wad ye come and grace our feast,  
How fond we'd grow and how familiar;  
In absence of our worthy priest,  
You are an excellent auxiliar.

This letter had been writ in prose,  
But, as you are yourself a rhymmer,  
Our Corporation did suppose,  
That you wad better like a chimera.

But, lest we on your time intrude  
(Which, by the bye, we had forgot),  
At present, we shall just conclude  
With our respects to Lady Scott."

Sir Walter accepted the invitation, but tradition has to relate regarding this interesting meeting. The accounts which could have spoken from personal recollection are now gone. The minute book of the Corporation does not even allude to the event. Besides the names of the office-bearers for that year, the only entry is a marginal note stating that 149 dined at Scott's Inn, and seventy boys and girls.

In the old days, like the good old English gentlemen, when the Corporation feasted the great, they did not forget the poor, and the hearts of those seventy boys and girls, who were employed as "creeshies" and "piecers," would be gladdened that, as on all similar occasions up to a comparatively recent date, by each one receiving a substantial pie.

It is extremely fortunate that David Thomson has followed the example of the Rev. Henry Davidson, the parish minister, who, it is said, burned all his manuscripts.

Thomson left a considerable amount of written matter both in prose and verse. He was styled "The Galashiels Poet," and is thus referred to by Sir Walter Scott,—“Hogg came to breakfast this morning, having taken and brought for his companion, the Galashiels bard, David Thomson, as to a meeting of ‘Huz Tivdale Poets.’” Though Mr Thomson possessed a facility in rhyming, he has left nothing that would justify the epithet of poet in any high degree. However, apart from his merits in this direction, he has done good service by his practice of recording current events in the earlier years of this century, as almost by his writings alone it has been found possible,

“To save from times destroying rage,  
And changeful fortune's withering blast,  
The pictured relics of the past.”

The following compilation is an account of the proceedings on that memorable occasion, which is the red letter day in the calendar of the Corporation,—

“The annual meeting of the Corporation of Galashiels took place on the 11th inst., and was more numerous attended than on any previous occasion.

In the earlier part of the day the procession of the trades interested and occupied public attention. The children employed in the carding departments of the different manufactories, tastefully attired, led the van. These were followed by the weavers, who sported on this occasion all the luxuries of the loom in elegant and tasteful variety. The standard-bearer went in front with the Corporation flag, having as design two griffins rampant, with the motto ‘Weave truth with trust.’ The officer who had charge of the procession marched at the side with drawn sword. Two quarter-masters, carrying halberts, walked one at each side of the deacon, who carried the Corporation books tied up with blue silk ribbons. Each office-bearer wore over his shoulder a broad silk sash edged with blue, and a white linen apron round his waist; then came the band, which consisted entirely of fiddles. Next followed the Clothiers, while flags with appro-

priate devices in allusion to the great staple manufacture were seen flying at intermediate distances in most beautiful order.

John of Skye, the far-famed piper of Sir Walter Scott, in the garb of Old Gaul, played the gathering of the clans with a spirit and effect which, to those unacquainted with his powers, it would be in vain to convey an idea.

Sir Walter, accompanied by Lady Scott and Miss Scott in the carriage, passed through the procession, and were greeted with those enthusiastic acclamations which their presence never failed to produce.

At three o'clock the Corporations sat down to most substantial dinners in the two principal inns, and were honoured on this occasion with the presence of the Lord of the Manor and the most distinguished gentlemen in the neighbourhood, including Sir Walter Scott, Bart.

After dinner, sentiment and song followed in rapid succession, and a proud man was 'laureate' Thomson when his health was proposed by 'the brother bard of Abbotsford.' Sir Walter requested Mr Andrew Hislop to favour him by singing the oldest Scotch song he knew. Mr Hislop complied by giving 'Hey, Jenny, come down to Jock.' During the singing of the song Sir Walter beat time with his hands, and at the conclusion exclaimed, 'Bravo! Mr Hislop, you have given us the very thing I wanted, and a crack old Scottish lilt it is.' A number of excellent speeches were also delivered, amongst which was one by Sir Walter, in which he made allusion to the peaceable state of the county of Selkirk. He alleged that his office of Sheriff had become quite a sinecure, and jocularly remarked that he was afraid, if such a state of things came to the ears of the Opposition members, they might make a motion to abolish it altogether. He also declared that the noblest effort of his genius was not so dear to him as the affection and love of his countrymen.

More songs followed, amongst which were 'The Young Lochinvar,' and 'Jock o' Hazeldean.' 'The Flowers of the Forest' and the song composed by David Thomson, 'The Thames long of Britain the glory and pride,' were also sung by

Andrew Hislop. When the latter was finished, Sir Walter told Mr Thomson that he should feel under great obligation to Mr Hislop for bringing his songs so ably before the public.

Compliments both in prose and verse flowed so fast on the worthy Baronet that he was quite overwhelmed, and declared himself bankrupt in gratitude.

The company were also highly delighted with the acquirements of Mr Manfrede, an Italian banker from Edinburgh, who had the astonishing faculty of composing extempore verses upon any given subject. He requested a topic from Sir Walter, who gave him "Weel-timed daffin," and on finishing his task it was allowed he had done the subject full justice. Mr Manfrede was also a chemist, and had made most important discoveries in the art of dyeing, for which he had received considerable rewards. He was so highly pleased on this occasion by the reception he had met that he declared he would accept of no reward, but would communicate to the manufacturers the art of dyeing gratis. He left a number of valuable recipes, the result of a life devoted to science; and the manufacturers were so much gratified at his kindness that they hoped at no distant date to be able to present him with some proof of their esteem.

Mr Thomson then delighted the company, and not least their illustrious guest, by chanting the following parody on Sir Walter's song, 'Donald Caird,' in allusion to the publication of *Rob Roy*,—

' Rob Macgregor's come again,  
Ilka ane thought dead and gane;  
By a wizard cantrip slight,  
Rob again has seen the light.  
He appears in a' his glory,  
Laughing baith at Whig and Tory;  
Rob's a chief o' some regard,  
No' a scamp like Donald Caird.

Rob Macgregor's come again!  
Rob Macgregor's come again!  
Think ye, does the Shirra ken  
Rob Macgregor's come again?

Bars o' iron, bolts o' steel  
Yield to Rob, for Rob's a deil;  
Glasgow jail, it canna haud him,  
No' a beagle daurs to daud him.  
Rob has keys o' ilka prison,  
Turnkey cousins by the dizzen;  
Burgh Bailies and their guard  
Shrink afore the Highland laird.

Rob Macgregor's come again!  
Rob Macgregor's come again!  
Lawland bodies pay your kain,  
Rob Macgregor's come again.

Robin's wife's a wife o' mettle,  
Weel she guards auld Scotland's kettle;  
Nought to Helen is a prize  
Like an imp of the excise.  
A' the Highland hills in chorus  
Sing the dirge o' gauger Morris;  
A' the pack might weel be spared,  
Reivers waur than Donald Caird.

Rob Macgregor's come again!  
Rob Macgregor's come again!  
Lomond's wilds are a' his ain,  
We're fain to see him back again.

Rob Macgregor dealt in cattle,  
But to pay them was a battle;  
Robin took a shorter plan,  
Cleared the marches like a man.  
Now he's king o' hill and dale,  
A' the Lennox pays blackmail;  
Sojer lads be on your guard,  
Ye arena catching Donald Caird.

Rob Macgregor's come again!  
Rob Macgregor's come again!  
We'll get back the days that's gane;  
Rob Macgregor's come again.

Rob Roy's caught at last,  
Bring the wuddie, haud him fast;  
Robin louns, and takes the river,  
Lost for ance, and lost for ever.



Joukin' up and joukin' doon,  
 Like an otter swam the loon,  
 Rob has baffled a' the guard,  
 No' sneaked aff like Donald Caird.

Rob Macgregor's aff again!  
 Rob Macgregor's aff again!  
 Highland blood and Highland bane,  
 Rob Macgregor's ne'er been tane.'

During the whole course of the proceedings Sir Walter laughed and chorused with the jolliest, giving the old song, 'Tarry Woo' as his quota to the entertainment of the company. His allusion to their popular bard, David Thomson, delighted immensely,

'Their poet, a sad trimmer, but no less  
 In company, a very pleasant fellow,  
 Had been the favourite of full many a mess  
 Of men, and made them speeches when half mellow.'

Sir Walter did not leave the company till a late hour, and, on retiring, said he hoped to meet the Corporation on some future opportunity.

The festivities concluded with a ball, at which nearly all the young people in the town were present."

Such is a description of the proceedings on that interesting occasion, compiled from various sources, after a lapse of seventy-five years. There was a thorough genuineness in the observance of the annual festival in those days that may now be looked for in vain; the conditions are entirely altered. With the increase of population and multiplicity of trades and interests, the town has lost much of the old clannishness which rendered the annual festival a day of general rejoicing. The village has become a town, and the hearty unsophisticated manners of its early inhabitants have given way to the less boisterous and less frank demeanour of a more polished age.

Yet to this day those among the manufacturers of Galashiels who cherish the memories associated with its early days look back with pride to that episode in the history of their Corpor-

ation when their fathers entertained as an honoured guest, not only a near and respected neighbour who took a warm and kindly interest in their welfare, but also one whose genius has cast a glamour over their native district, and rendered the place of their birth classic ground.

In connection with the Michaelmas gathering Lockhart states that,—

“It was a pleasant thing to see the annual procession of these weavers of Galashiels, as they advanced from their village with John of Skye at their head, and the banners of their craft all displayed, to meet Sir Walter and his family at Abbotsford, and escort them in splendour to the scene of the great festivity. And well pleased was he ‘to share the triumph and partake the gale’ of Deacon Wood or Deacon Walker. At this Galashiels festival the Ettrick Shepherd was also a regular attender. He used to come down the night before and accompany Sir Walter in the only carriage that graced the march, and many of Hogg’s best ballads were produced for the first time amid the cheers of the men of Galashiels.”

It seems a pity to mar the pleasant picture portrayed by Lockhart, but, with the exception of this occasion, there exists no record that would afford ground for the belief that Sir Walter was present at any other Michaelmas dinner. The Ettrick Shepherd was no stranger in these gatherings, at which it was his regular practice to chant, for he was no singer, many of his favourite songs.

When the time arrived for the observance of the annual 1822 festival in 1822, it was agreed to invite Sir Walter a second time. With this object in view, the services of David Thomson were again requisitioned, and the following invitation was sent to Abbotsford,—

“To SIR WALTER SCOTT, Bart., Abbotsford.

MURRAY’S INN, GALASHIELS, *October 1, 1822.*

This year we rather ‘gin to falter  
If an epistle we should send ye;  
Say some, ‘Ye only plague Sir Walter,  
He canna ilka year attend ye.

Last year, nae doot, he condescended,  
 Just to be quit o' your palaver;  
 But he could ne'er hae apprehended,  
 That ilka year ye'd ask the favour.

He's dined but lately wi' the King,  
 And round him there is sic a splendour;  
 He winna stoop tae sic a thing,  
 For a' the reasons ye can render.  
 Content yourselves wi' John o' Skye,  
 Your impudence deserves a wiper;  
 Ye'll never rest till he'll grow shy,  
 And e'en refuse to send his piper.'

These reasons a' may be withstood  
 Wi' nae pretensions for a talker;  
 Ye mauna lightly Deacon Wood,  
 But dine wi' him like Deacon Walker.  
 Your favourite dish is not forgot,  
*Imprimis* for your bill of fare;  
 We'll put a sheep's head in the pot,  
 Ye's get the cantle for your share.

And we've the best o' mountain dew,  
 Was gathered where ye mauna list,  
 In spite o' a' the gauger crew,  
 By Scotland's children o' the mist.  
 Last year your presence made us canty,  
 For which we hae ye yet to thank;  
 This year, in faith we canna want ye,  
 Ye're absence wad make sic a blank.

As a' oor neebours are oor friends,  
 The company is not selected;  
 But for to mak ye some amends,  
 There's not a social soul neglected.  
 We wish you luck o' your new bigging,  
 There's no' the like o't on the Tweed;  
 Ye'll no' mistake it by its rigging,  
 It is an oddity indeed

To Lady Scott our kind respects,  
 To her and to Miss Ann our thanks;  
 We hope this year they'll no' neglect  
 Again to smile upon our ranks.

## HISTORY OF GALASHIELS.

Upon our other kind regards  
At present we will no' be treating,  
For some discourse we maun hae spared  
To raise the friendly crack at meeting.

So ye maun come if ye can win,  
Gie's nae excuse like common gentry;  
If we suspect, as sure's a gun,  
On Abbotsford we'll place a sentry."

What reply was received to this invitation is unknown to the hospitable board of the Clothiers' Corporation & the Mighty Minstrel no more.

## CHAPTER X.

**I**N 1822 it is evident that some species of conduct was being carried on which caused loss and damage to the members of the Corporation. Nothing specific is recorded regarding the methods employed by the depredators, but, in order to cope with the difficulty, the Corporation drew up the following resolution, to which they appended their names, which gives the membership at this date,—

“We, the undersigned, have agreed to form ourselves into an association for the purpose of carrying into effect every measure necessary for bringing to light all depredators who may be guilty or suspected of injuring or stealing property of any description whatever belonging to the said association. And for this purpose we agree to be assessed our proportion of the expenses at the discretion of a committee of five, including the Deacon, to be annually chosen the first lawful day after the Michaelmas meeting, and in case they are not chosen at that time, the said committee to continue in full power until their successors are appointed.

John Fairgrieve, Deacon.	William Dobson.	J. & W. Cochrane.
Robert Gill & Sons.	Joshua Wood.	Robert Walker.
Hugh Sanderson.	Thos. Clapperton.	Richard Lees.
John Leitch.	David Ballantyne.	James Sime & Son.
John Young.	John Lees.	George Roberts.
Thos. McGill.	William Roberts.	John Gledhill.
James Paterson.	Jas. Rutherford.	Robert Paterson.
A. Sanderson & Son.	George Paterson.	James Bathgate.”
Jas. & Henry Brown.	W. & D. Thomson.	

The necessity for the above association appears to have been of a temporary character, as in a year or two it ceased to exist.

A question arose at this time which created no small amount of feeling amongst the weavers in the town on account of the undernoted notice having been issued,—

“We, the undersigned, bind and oblige ourselves under the penalty of twenty-one shillings stg. not to allow any of our workers to dispose of thrums, but cause them to be returned with each piece of goods as woven, from and after this date.”



**GEORGE PATERSON**

**ROBERT SANDERSON**

**JAMES SIME**

**WALTER COCHRANE**

**JAMES SANDERSON**



## HISTORY OF GALASHIELS.

These thrums were at that time considered by the as a perquisite, and were utilised for the manufacture of rugs, &c. Judging from the signatures appended above notice, it does not appear to have found favour with the Corporation generally, as the names of some of the firms in the town at that time were not adhibited.

A notable feature in connection with the early days of the trade was the anxiety displayed by the manufacturers that their employees should be competent to thoroughly perform their duties in the various departments of the business. With a view to secure this desirable object, they had repeatedly made laws and regulations regarding the necessity of serving a term of apprenticeship. Those lads who intended to learn the trade in all its branches were apprenticed for a term of seven years, while others were bound for three years, for the purpose of learning the weaving only. The duties and emoluments of apprentices are indicated in the following copy of an indenture under which a successful manufacturer, recently deceased, learned his trade,—

“It is contracted, agreed, and by way of indenture finally ended between the parties following. To wit, J. S., Clothier in Galashiels, on the one part, and W. B., son of A. B., of Foulshiels, with the special advice and consent of the said A. B., his father on the other part, in manner following, that is to say, the said W. B. hereby becomes bound apprentice and servant to the said J. S. in his trade or employment of a Clothier or manufacturer of woollen cloth, and that for all the years and space of seven years from and after the first day of Martinmas eighteen hundred and twenty-one years, which is hereby agreed to have been the date of his entry to his said apprenticeship, during the space the said W. B. binds and obliges himself to obey all his master's lawful and lawful commands, and leilly, diligently, and truly to attend his master's service both by night and by day, nor absent himself therefrom during the term of his apprenticeship without his master's leave asked and given, under penalty of five shillings stg. for each day he shall be so absent, to be paid by his cautioner after named, to the said J. S. And that he shall not wrong, hear or see his master's skaith or hurt in his name, goods, or gear, but shall stop, hinder, and impede the same to the utmost of his power, and shall acquaint his master therewith. And that he shall not reveal nor divulge his secrets or affairs wherewith he shall be intrusted by his said master, and that he shall not during the time of his apprenticeship play at cards, or



any such game, under the penalty of one pound stg. for each offence, and that he shall not frequent ale-houses, nor any houses of that kind, nor keep any idle or disorderly company, under the above mentioned penalty for each offence. And A. B. hereby becomes bound as cautioner and surety for the said W. B., that he shall perform his part of the indenture.

For which causes and on the other part the said J. S. binds and obliges himself not only to learn, teach, and instruct the said W. B. in his trade or employment of a Clothier or manufacturer of woollen cloth, and conceal no part thereof from him, so far as he knows or practices the same himself, but use his utmost endeavour to cause him to learn and uptake the same, and, further, the said J. S. binds and obliges himself to maintain the said W. B. his apprentice in bed, board, and washing during the time of his said apprenticeship, and also to provide him with one coat, one vest or waistcoat, two pairs of trousers, and a pair of double-soled shoes annually, during the time of his apprenticeship. And J. S., junr., Clothier in Galashiels, hereby becomes bound as cautioner and surety for the said J. S. his father, that he shall perform his part of the indenture.

And lastly both parties bind and oblige themselves to implement, perform, and fulfil their respective parts of the premisses to one another, under the penalty of ten pounds stg., to be paid by the party failing to the party observing or willing to observe their part of the premisses over and above performance. And they consent to the registration hereof in the books of Council and Session or other judges' books competent, that letters of horning in six days charge and all other execution necessary pass hereon as effairs, and thereto constitute their procurators, &c."

Apprentices in those days sat at their employer's table, ate the same food, and engaged every day in the same round of hard labour, sharing together the few holidays that then existed. This state of things, in these modern days, would be considered intolerable slavery, yet under such conditions were the men trained whose energy and perseverance overcame difficulties of which the present generation has no conception; to whose industry, prudence, and integrity Galashiels is not only largely indebted for its growth and prosperity, but for its very existence as a manufacturing town.

1825 Previous to 1825 the Clothiers' and Dyers' Corporations were accustomed to celebrate the Michaelmas festival under the same roof and in one company. This year, however, the old order changed, and it is recorded that the journeymen dined by themselves in Murray's Inn.

No reason is given for the split, and though in some respects this separation may have been a matter for regret, yet sooner or later it was certain to take place; but it is satisfactory to know that it did not arise upon any question of caste or class feeling. It is said that the reason for the disruption arose on the question of purveying for the annual dinner. The Clothiers, or "Auld Dyers" as they used to be termed, had by prescription obtained the privilege of settling this matter, and the members of the Dyers' Corporation, or "Young Dyers," desired to obtain a voice in the selecting and testing—or perhaps more correctly, tasting—the liquors to be furnished. This innovation was resisted, with the result that the secession took place, which, however, did not result in any bad feeling, as up to the present day the exchange of courtesies between the respective Corporations is one of the events of the Michaelmas celebration.

In modern days the after-dinner oratory at the annual festival is to a considerable extent imported, but in the earlier years of the century the Clothiers depended almost entirely upon local talent. The following is a specimen of what was wont to be heard in the old days, and, whatever may be its defects, it has at least the merit of originality, a quality sadly lacking in more pretentious times,—

"Mr Chairman and gentlemen,—I have got put into my hands a toast, which I wish had been given to one more able to do it justice, but being the oldest manufacturer I could not refuse.

Mr Chairman, we are met here this day for social purposes, farmers and manufacturers, and being the first time many of us have dined with our Laird we think it a very high honour conferred. In the midst of our conviviality let us consider ourselves as brothers, and if we work together we will be bad to beat.

Allow me, Mr Chairman and gentlemen, to relate a parable.—There was a Galalean shawl manufacturer who went to Jerusalem for orders, and as he was going over Mount Moriah he met the King and two of his favourite Queens, and the King addressed him thus: 'Who art thou, what is thy name, and whither art thou going?' He replied, 'Your Majesty, after you is good manners.' The King then said, 'I am Solomon, King of Jerusalem, and these are two of my favourite Queens, the one is called the Rose of Sharon, the daughter of a farmer, the other is called the Lily of the Valley, the daughter of a manufacturer, and they cannot live separate else they would both die.'

'Well,' returned the stranger, 'I am Pudlemighty, a shawl manufacturer from Galalee, and I have got with me two shawls, the one is called the Rose of Sharon, the other the Lily of the Valley, if you will do me the favour to accept of them I will feel highly honoured.' 'Well,' said the King, 'I will take them, and in return I will give unto thee this ring. When thou goest into the city show it to Mordicea, the merchant, tell him what thou hast done, and he will give thee an order.' So Mr Pudlemighty made his obeisance, bowing himself to the ground, and he went on his way rejoicing. And when he was come unto the city he called upon Mordicea even as the King had commanded, and showed him the ring, and told him of all that he had done. And when Mordicea saw the ring and heard all that was said he exclaimed, 'What! art thou the maker of these beautiful shawls I saw upon the King's favourites to-day in the temple?' 'Yea,' replied Mr Pudlemighty. 'Well,' said Mordicea, 'I will give you an order for ten thousand of them.' So the shawl manufacturer thanked him, and went on his way rejoicing.

Gentlemen, you may all see what I mean, to live on the principle of reciprocity, for giff gaff makes good friends. So, I conclude by giving you 'The town and trade of Galashiels.'"

The following list comprises the different firms in the town engaged in the woollen trade in 1825,—

"James Bathgate.	James & Henry Brown.	William Brown.
Thos. Clapperton.	John & Walter Cochrane.	William Dobson.
John Fairgrieve.	Robert Gill & Son.	John Gledhill.
John Lees.	Richard Lees.	Thomas McGill.
Thomas Mercer.	George Paterson.	Robert Paterson.
George Roberts.	James Roberts.	William Robertson.
James Rutherford.	Alex. Sanderson & Son.	Hugh Sanderson & Son.
James Sime & Son.	Wm. & David Thomson.	Robert Walker.
William Berry (yarn).	George Roberts (yarn).	James Sanderson (yarn)."
Joshua Wood (yarn).		

In addition to the Scottish competition in woollen cloth held annually in Edinburgh at the instance of the Board of Trustees, 1826 there was also a competition in 1826 amongst the local manufacturers for a gold medal. There remains no record of its origin or demise, the only notice regarding it is contained in the columns of the *Kelso Mail*, in the following statement,—“The Galashiels Clothiers' Club's gold medal for the best piece of manufactured cloth was awarded at their competition to James Roberts.” There appears to have been a competition every six months, as it is recorded in the

1827 same publication in 1827, that in the first competition Robert Gill & Son were the successful competitors, and at the second J. & H. Brown carried off the honour. The only other reference  
1828 to be found regarding this friendly rivalry occurred in 1828, when the gold medal was awarded to J. & W. Cochrane.

The demand for the old-fashioned "blue claith" had now begun to die away, and troublous times were in store for the Galashiels manufacturers. Stock accumulated, and, in spite of every effort to effect a clearance, it still burdened the shelves of the various warerooms. Capital was scarce, therefore every opportunity was seized in order to find a market. One firm in the town found themselves overstocked with goods along with a corresponding reduction of capital, and learning that an annual fair of some importance was about to be held in the Orkney Islands, it was resolved that advantage should be taken of the event, in order to reduce the stock. Accordingly, young Willie Thomson prepared to set forth on the important journey. Great was the concern in that household on the momentous occasion, and friendly neighbours were not awanting, who gave visible signs of their kindly interest. The goods were packed, and at the appointed time were transferred to the care of Young, the carrier, and the expedition started. Arriving at Leith, the "claith" was embarked on board the "George Canning." Kirkwall was reached, and the goods were disembarked and deposited in a place of security. The Fair, which lasted ten days, began, but the goods moved tardily off, and the prospect of a clearance grew less every day. In those disheartening circumstances, Willie resolved to go further afield and see what could be done at Lerwick, some 110 miles distant. The goods were re-packed, and transferred to a cod fishing boat, where they were securely covered with old sails. There were three of a crew; the cooking appliance consisted of a solitary kettle, the viands being limited to oatmeal and treacle, while a fire was made on an arrangement of stones. The boat had not proceeded far when a gale arose, and they had to run to the nearest port for shelter. Here

they remained wind-bound for fourteen days, and employed their time in fishing for sillocks, which were cooked and eaten with relish, along with oatmeal cakes, baked on the hot stones. At length the wind proved favourable, and Lerwick was reached. Trade was found to be but little better there, but a firm in the town made an offer for all the goods. A vessel was on the point of sailing for Leith, and another opportunity of leaving Lerwick might not occur for some time. Compulsion quickened a bargain, which was made at 3s per yard, 5 per cent. off, and a bill at six months. "Run fast," said the merchant, "You have no time to lose." For the next fourteen weary days the sloop fought its way southward. At length Leith was reached, and, speedily making his way to the Harrow Inn in the Candlemaker Row, Willie rested and refreshed himself. Without loss of time, he was soon footing it nimbly over Middleton Moor, and in due course reached home. He had hardly entered the door when his salutation was, "What about the claith?" "Sold," was the laconic reply. "Where's the cash?" was the next query. "It's a bill," was the rejoinder. The piece of paper was suspiciously scrutinized and soon discounted, and was in due course honoured. What a talk went through the town when the result became known; the "claith" had brought 3s, but in the interval those in the town had been glad to obtain 1s 8d per yard for it.

Trade was bad, an old system was departing, the standard cloth and pattern, sterling though they were, were fated to give place to a fabric more in accordance with modern ideas. The period of transition proved a trying one to the Clothiers of Galashiels. A paragraph in the *Scotsman* of this date states,—

"We are sorry to learn that Galashiels, the great seat of our infant woollen manufacture, is in a most disastrous condition. The failures within the last few weeks have exceeded anything ever known in the place, and among the sufferers are several respectable houses which stood all the trials of 1826 and many preceding periods of depression.

The extensiveness of the mischief, we understand, is partly owing to the facility with which discounts were obtained, and to the system of accommodation which had grown up in consequence."

This gloomy picture of the state of the manufacturers in the town appears to have been overdrawn, as in a subsequent issue of the same paper a paragraph is inserted stating that

"A letter from a gentleman in Galashiels mentions that the state of business and credit is not so low as formerly stated, there had been a number of failures, but there is no leading house in the number, and with the exception of four second-rate firms, most of the insolvent individuals did business to a very limited extent."

1829

The further history of the local woollen trade bears out the old adage that it is darkest just before the dawn. The greys, blues, and drabs ruled the fashion for years, but they lost their popularity, and serious suffering both to Galashiels manufacturers and their employees was the result. The first departure from the conventional fabrics and colourings is attributed to various persons. Sir Walter Scott at this time wore a pair of trousers made out of a Scotch checked plaid, and his example was largely followed. A new direction was given to the trade, but its fullest development may be said to owe its origin to the simple idea of twisting together two or more yarns of a different colour. The manner of producing the various coloured checks in the early days of what may be styled fancy goods was to weave them in black and white, then, in order to produce black and green, black and blue, or black and brown, they were put into the dye vat till the white check came out the desired colour.

Soft tartans were first made in the district at this time by Thomas Roberts, and trouserings made from twist and mixed colourings were also successfully produced. The tartans were extensively used by the nobility and gentry for cloaks, dresses, and shawls. Three-fourths of the looms, which now numbered 175, were kept going for half the year on that class of goods alone. There were also fifteen sets of carding machines, but these represented a much greater number of manufacturers, and the fortunate possessor of a quarter of a set was accounted a "maister" and a man of means. The number of manufacturers had risen to thirty-four, whose total annual turn-over was estimated at £26,000.

The now familiar term "tweeds" originated at this time, and is said to have arisen from the word "tweels" having been indistinctly written, and by mistake read as "tweeds" by James Locke of London, who adopted what he considered an appropriate name for the fabrics produced in the locality, and which, owing to the writings of Sir Walter Scott, was calculated to extend the popularity of the article.

## CHAPTER XI.

THE origin of the tweed trade forms an interesting chapter in the history of the Manufacturers' Corporation, and it is fortunate that Archibald Craig of Edinburgh, and James Locke of London, the two gentlemen who were so intimately connected with its rise and progress, have left their experiences on record. The following are Mr Craig's reminiscences of the tweed trade between the years 1829 and 1836,—

“It was in the autumn of 1829 that I returned to Edinburgh by way of Liverpool from London, and upon landing at Glasgow a rather conspicuous object attracted my attention among the crowd on the Broomielaw, namely, a man dressed in a pair of black and white large-checked trousers. In the present day such an article of dress would not have been noticed, but when I explain that at that period nothing was worn for trousers except plain colours such as drabs, greys, and blacks, the effect of such a marked change of dress will be better understood.

I think it highly probable that this man's trousers were made from either his grandfather's plaid, or his grandmother's shawl, as the white was so well ‘smoked,’ not with sulphur, however, but with an age of peat reek, which by no means improved the appearance. I had not been many weeks in Edinburgh, however, before another pair or two of a smaller and more modest size of check were to be seen, and these I ascertained were made out of travelling cloaks. About four or five years previous to 1829 shepherd check cloaks, not unlike the Inverness capes of the present day, were much worn by gentlemen for wraps, and it was out of these cloaks that the trousers were made.

Shortly afterwards I had an inquiry from London for ‘a coarse woollen black and white checked stuff made in Scotland, and expected to be wanted for trousers,’ and requesting some patterns to be forwarded. This was easier asked than performed, as at that time these goods were only made in plaids, with borders and fringes. However, cutting a small piece from the seam of a cloak, it was forwarded, the pattern in those days costing 2s 3d for postage. It turned out to be the article required, and an order for half-a-dozen pieces was received. These were soon made, and were, I believe, the first Scotch tweeds that were sent to London in bulk. They were introduced into influential quarters, and increased orders followed rapidly, and the firm with which I am connected had about a monopoly of the trade in London in these goods for a considerable time.



It was not, however, any of the large present centres of the tweed trade that had the honour of making them, but the quiet town of Peebles, the late Mr Dickson of the Waulk Mill, there, being the first who manufactured the goods. He employed all the weavers in and around Peebles, but the demand became so strong that I had to get them made at Bannockburn and other places; and it was not till the autumn of 1830 that I placed the first order for them with four of the chief manufacturers in Galashiels, and I ascertained that none had been made there previous to that date.

In 1831-32, although a large demand had sprung up both in Edinburgh and London for this new material, no one expected it would prove permanent. It was expected that after it had a 'run' for a time it would go out of use, but a trifling but lucky circumstance took place, which had a most important bearing upon the trade. It happened that one of the manufacturers had made a quantity of these checks, but the white was so impure and dirty-looking from being mixed with grey wool that they would not sell. In these circumstances a happy idea struck some one, that if they were dipped in brown dye it would hide the fault and produce a brown and black check. This idea was acted upon, and on the 'new style' being sent to London they sold rapidly, and fresh orders were sent for more of the same pattern. These brown and black checks were succeeded by blue and black, then green and black, and these again by broken and large checks in all the above colourings, and at every change of pattern a fresh impetus was given to the trade. After these checks had run their day they were succeeded by the same colourings in tweels, black and white, black and brown, &c., a good variety of new patterns and colourings following each other.

In 1833-34, several of the smaller towns were now successfully competing in the race with Galashiels; nor was it till the introduction of fine foreign wools took place when that town fairly shot ahead and took the lead.

It was in 1834 that my friend, the late Mr Dickson, removed from Peebles to Stow, and introduced new machinery into the old mill there, where he began manufacturing foreign wool with great success. He introduced it in granite and heather mixtures in an endless variety of bright colourings, and when I showed the first ranges of these mixtures in London, the chief men in the wholesale woollen trade were quite astonished, and I had some difficulty in assuring them that the entire range, several yards long, and embracing some dozens of patterns and colourings, was woven in the loom. Their idea was that the pieces were woven separately and stitched together at the yellow thread which divided them. I had no difficulty in obtaining orders for these goods, in fact, the first order I received took the Stow Mill many months to execute.

By 1834-35, the firm with which I was connected were doing a large trade with the first wholesale houses in London, and, were it not that we had opened a branch in Glasgow in 1835, we would then have opened a branch in London for the sale of tweeds. I went to Glasgow, and was surprised to find tweeds were but little known there, for, with the exception of one old firm, none of

the drapery houses kept them, and they were nearly unknown to the general public. I advertised the goods, pointing out their superiority to cloth of English make, and asked all who wished well to the development of our native manufactures to patronise this new branch of their home industry. This had the effect, and a large demand at once sprang up, and the foreign merchants not only began to ship them all over the world, but the large warehouses were compelled to keep stocks of them in self-defence.

The trade is now wonderfully increased, and the goods are made from Shetland, Harris, and Skye in the north; to Galashiels, Hawick, and Langholm in the south. This had been accomplished against the old established wealthy manufacturers of England, who before 1829 may be said to have had an entire monopoly of the woollen trade of the country. It was begun by a set of men who appeared most unlikely to have made such a conquest. These men's sons, however, entered into competition with their English rivals, and now in 1874 they have beaten them entirely both in fabric and design.

With ordinary prudence and good management on the part of the manufacturers, by designers having a sharp eye to the wants and tastes of the public, by continuing to keep up the purity of the material and the standard of excellence, nothing should shake or undermine the great trade it has grown into, or hinder its constant increase from year to year."

After the above was published, a considerable number of communications reached Mr Craig regarding the share others had in bringing tweeds into notice, and in consequence that gentleman supplemented his former paper by the following,—

"As I have no wish to magnify my own share in the work by withholding honour where honour is due, I willingly add to these reminiscences by mention of a few men who also at first contributed to the establishment of this great industry. I must begin with my old friend, the late Mr James Locke of Regent Street, London. Although he was not the first to introduce Scotch tweeds into the Metropolis (for I claim that honour), he perhaps did more work, both in getting his own designs made and the goods introduced into influential quarters than any other man of that time. I well remember calling upon Mr Locke in the autumn of 1829 to bid him farewell on leaving London. He was then doing a small cloth trade in York Street, Covent Garden. Shortly afterwards he removed to Regent Street, and in 1830 or '31, finding that Scotch shepherd checks were taking hold of the taste among the upper classes, he directed his attention to these goods, buying and selling them freely. It was soon after this he began to design his own patterns; in the early days of the trade there were no pattern ranges as they are now. Every new design was made in pieces forty yards long, and it was hit or miss whether the goods came up saleable or not.

I find that, like myself, Mr Locke took his ideas for design and colourings from all manner of things. The most successful colourings for mixtures I ever hit upon, I collected from the bed of the river Garry in the pass of Killiecrankie, mostly granites, porphyries, and jaspers, which I found to be particularly rich in colourings such as reds, greys, and greens, beautifully mottled and mixed with other finely contrasted colours.

The Messrs Lockes' new shop being in one of the best thoroughfares in London, it was not long till the nobility and West End people found them out. Her Majesty sent for them the first time she went to Scotland, and gave a large order for Royal Stewart and other tartan dresses and shawls. Prince Albert also selected various tweeds for suits. After tweeds got introduced into such influential quarters, the middle classes were not long in following. The trade rapidly extended, the Messrs Locke found it necessary to keep a large stock of Scotch woollen goods, which enabled them to go into the wholesale branch, and to supply the leading tailors and clothiers in both London and the provinces.

Another Scotsman who was an early pioneer was Mr A. Binnie, of Binnie & Richardson, in Old Bond Street. He was the first to introduce borders on tweeds for stripes down the sides of trousers, an innovation that came about in the following manner. Trousers were very tight in 1833, and upon the fashion changing, Mr Binnie, unwilling to throw away a pair of shepherd checks on account of their shape, devised a plan for letting in a stripe of black cloth about two inches wide down the outside of the leg, and upon being seen, the fashion became general. Since the borders have been in fashion they have at various times varied from one quarter of an inch to three inches in width.

At an early period in the history of the trade Sir Walter Scott and Lord Brougham were marked patronisers of the shepherd checks. It is told of Lord Brougham, that being in Inverness and going into a noted shop there, he got a pair of shepherd check trousers, which he liked so much that he ordered two more pieces. Of course, he meant sufficient to make two pairs of trousers, but the merchant, knowing that he had a safe customer, sent him two whole pieces, each about forty yards long; and, although remonstrated with, declined to take them back on the ground that he had got them specially made. His Lordship was obliged to keep and pay for the lot, and when caricatured in *Punch* he was always represented in these veritable shepherd checks.

Before concluding, I must not forget to do justice to two Edinburgh men for the part they took as pioneers,—I mean Messrs James and Archibald Ogilvie. They took a lead in designing patterns, in fact they were the first designers of their day. Their patterns became well known, and were much sought after by the leading London houses, and they gave Edinburgh a name for superior style which it still maintains; for though the Edinburgh trade will not compare with London or Glasgow, it is well known for good taste, in patterns it is second to none in the kingdom.

The field for Scotch tweeds still continues to widen year after year. Large additions have been made to all the old mills, new ones are constantly being built, and yet, with all this vast increase in production, the demand is barely supplied.

The great secrets of the unparalleled success are these—Purity of the material, durability combined with cheapness, great comfort in wear, and priority in new patterns. I have seen the beginning, rise and progress of this wonderful trade, and though I cannot expect to be much longer connected with it, I have had great pleasure in jotting down these reminiscences of its early days.

EDINBURGH, 1875.

(Signed) ARCHIBALD CRAIG."

Such are Mr Craig's reminiscences of the tweed trade, but no less interesting is the following chapter written by James Locke, which he styles "A few Facts on the Tweed Trade,"—

1830 "We visited Galashiels about 1830, or '32 and ordered goods (the first in any quantity that were sent to London). It would be curious to contrast the amount of our first transactions with their amount at the present time (1863). The goods then bought were only tweels in all colours. They consisted of thin granite colours, but these were only in black and white and brown and white running into lighter and darker mixtures. It was soon found that thicker goods were wanted for winter wear. In the early years of the trade in Scotland this was difficult to get, as few had milling machinery heavy enough to mill thick goods.

We have said that we went to Galashiels in 1830 and became acquainted with a firm there. We suggested that they should get up and weave a few patterns that their effect might be seen before ordering. We shall never forget the look we got, and the difficulties we had to overcome before our suggestion was agreed to. We were the first house that had a 'range' of patterns made entirely for ourselves. Now, without this adjunct the trade could not have gone on. At first these were charged for, but it was soon discontinued. In 1836 we first put up the large checks 8 by 7, which opened the eyes of many to new fancies. In 1843-44 we ordered all our goods to be made with a border, and in so doing we took the whole trade by surprise, some of our neighbours sending their old stock to Crayford to have a border printed upon them. This was the origin of borders on Scotch-made tweeds, and the impulse it gave to the trade at the time was wonderful.

When gentlemen of the rod and gun began to inquire for that which would resemble the shooting ground, we had nothing of the kind, neither was there any in the market. We wrote to a Galashiels house for a 'range,' but they replied they had never heard of such an article. By the following post we requested them just to imitate Buckholm Hill which overshadowed them, at this time in beautiful bloom. A boy was despatched to bring some heather.

Now, when a handful of this was squashed together it had different shades varying with the seasons. This proved to be the very thing we wanted, and led to the introduction of a variety of colourings before unknown. This was the origin of heather mixtures.

Originally, granite colours were made only in black and white and brown and white, but, on one occasion, walking out near the head of Lochshiel we observed the parapet of a bridge made of rough granite stones. These we chipped for patterns, and got nearly all the colours imitated in fine wool. We now for the first time introduced a yellow colour, never seen before in town, though we remember having seen it worn by Highland drovers fifty years ago. This colour, so hateful in general, has become, when tastefully contrasted with others, a very favourite one, and we maintain that 'Scotchified' patterns did not originate with the makers of Scotch tweeds. It was the Highland glens that gave many of them to the trade. Gentlemen brought the colours up from their shooting boxes, as they could not be produced there in any quantity. We well remember to have seen a good stuff and colour at Glenfinnon, but when we spoke of ordering a hundred yards for sporting purposes, we were informed it was only made in the winter evenings, and could not procure more than three or four six yard lengths. So much for homespun, and had we waited for such a scanty supply, most of our shooting connection would have gone to the moors habited something like Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. It was long, however, before gentlemen wore these light colours in the streets. We said twenty years ago that the time would come when nearly every person we saw on our streets would be wearing this comfortable texture. When we ourselves first appeared in a very light suit we were accosted as something strange. 'We have seen the green man,' said a friend to us, 'but I never until now saw a light Scotch grey man in public,' yet step by step it has become the wear for gentlemen. Fashion is a very undefined and complex thing—always led off at a very high level, and gradually descends, and without the higher English gentlemen had in a very marked degree taken to the wearing of this stuff, we never should have had such a demand.

Simultaneously with the tweeds there arose quite a fashion for soft fine wool six-quarter wide plaiding, or fine Cashmere tartan, as it was called, and its introduction was effected in the following simple manner. A lady had suggested to an Edinburgh house that she would like to have a dress of what is called the 'shepherd's plaid,' or black and white check. They fortunately took the hint and gave the idea to a firm in Galashiels, who first produced it in dresses only, and for some time in short lengths. As this took both extra time and labour, and was the product of German lambs' wool at 4s per pound, they came at first to a long price. Consequently for a long time these goods were confined to the wealthy classes. About 1832 this branch of the trade was introduced into London, and in a short time the demand far exceeded the supply. The manufacturers who at first had made short lengths of the above check, now found at the West End a house, hitherto unknown to them, who

could give orders for 80 or 100 pieces of 40 yards each, which took six months to supply. But this beautiful branch of the trade came to its climax in 1848; Lancashire and Yorkshire sent imitations, and in a short time dresses which cost pounds for the genuine article were soon in the market for as many shillings.

We had been long familiar with the shepherd's maud, and, we believe, were the first to wear one in town. Well do we remember, about 1833, going down High Holborn on a Sunday morning with a whole host of admiring followers behind us. What lots of these were made in the next ten years for travelling purposes. The maud was an article that added much to the Scotch trade, and they were soon produced in all the clan tartans. We remember to have sold one for a bedcover for the present Pope, and Lady Franklin gave one to all the officers of the ships going to seek for the North-West Passage.

Ladies' shawls were a very extensive branch for about ten years. Every manufacturer in Galashiels made these goods for the Glasgow and London markets. At first they were made of Cheviot wool, but soon the cry got up for finer qualities. For many years these shawls were only made in six-quarter to eight-quarter in all the clan patterns, and also in fancies of every kind, made out of the finest fleeces.

We well remember making a pattern which became a great favourite, it was called the 'Blair Athole.' In 1842, when the Queen first went to Scotland, we proposed to ourselves a new shawl. We took the large 'Murray' and incorporated it with the 'Victoria.' Could it have been patented, it would have been a fortune. From this came nearly all what have been termed the 'Dress Clan' patterns in shawls.

Having in our younger days observed the Newhaven fish wives petticoats, we thought of introducing them. About 1844 we started for the prosecution of the idea, but on making inquiry at the different houses in Edinburgh could only obtain a few pieces of three and a half yards.

We went up to the fish market and soon saw the article wanted. On getting up to the woman, with apparently as many petticoats as the gravedigger in Hamlet had waistcoats, we asked her to open for us some of her oysters. While she was thus engaged we were taking stock of her stripes. While doing this the following interlocutor took place, 'Just eat your oysters, ma bonnie lamb, an' dinna fyke sae muckle aboot ma coats.'

Reviewing the Scotch tweed trade at a glance, which was soon after it started accompanied by the Scotch shawl trade, in 1832 the whole did not amount to more than £2000 or £3000. In 1862 we find it is, if not more, £1,200,000. No doubt the trade here at former times was considerable, but it was from a different kind of cloth, namely, three-quarter wide greys and blues, supplied to the Edinburgh and Glasgow markets. This trade is now superseded by the more modern one of tweeds, shawls, and cloakings, at present principally the first of these. We have said that originally nearly all the fine summer goods were made from fine German lambs' wool. The Australasian wool soon

superseded these, and came in at a lower price. These are now wholly in use except in a few instances. This town is fast becoming the Leeds of Scotland. In 1830 its sets of machinery were only six or eight, in 1860 these were about fifty and still increasing. As time runs on this trade will more and more develop itself. The woollen trade of Scotland thirty years ago was a very small one. We ourselves found it at a few thousand pounds, we now find it millions.

Sir Walter Scott and other professional writers may have done much for inducing strangers to visit Scotland, and in doing so doubtless did much good. But the men, the practical traders, who have been the means of introducing and extending the tweed trade have done a more lasting benefit, which, we have no doubt, will be appreciated by generations yet to come."

## CHAPTER XII.

**A**T the present day the art of making tweeds is so well known, and the machinery employed is so perfect, that there are few of the difficulties to overcome which the manufacturers of an earlier day had to face. Had not improved methods of producing yarn been adopted, in all probability the tweed trade would not have grown into the industry that it now is. The smoothness of the yarn depends upon efficient carding, and the finer the work the process becomes the more difficult. Up to this time the carding machine was supplied with scribbled wool, and the chief difficulty was to secure regularity in the feeding. If the wool went irregularly into the machine, the "rowin's" were delivered in a similarly unequal state, which seriously affected the regularity of the yarn. This was a continual vexation, so the feeding machine was introduced,—an adaptation of cotton machinery to woollen goods, which operated by taking the sliver from the scribbler and applying it to the feeding board of the carder in such a manner as obviated the evil effects of irregular feeding in the first instance.

The inquiry which took place previous to the passing of the first Factory Act revealed the fact that great hardships were endured by the children employed in the woollen factories, the hardest lot of all being that of the "piecer," whose duty was to join the "rowin's" on the creeping cloth of the slubbing billy. The carder turned out the prepared wool in rolls, the length of which was equal to the width of the machine. Lifting a handful of these, the "piecer" stood behind the "billy" and, as each was drawn in, a fresh length was joined to the end. This work required constant attention, and was continued for twelve hours per day, and in busy seasons sometimes longer. For work of this nature the boys had received 1s 8d per week, an annual gift of a suit of Galashiels greys, and a Kilmarnock bonnet. This kind



of labour at length came to an end, the billy was thrown out on the introduction of the condenser, to which the following little history is attached.

In 1830 Mr Thomas Roberts of Galashiels emigrated to America, and there saw the condenser at work. Considering it would greatly assist the trade of his native town, he set himself to study the machine, and having mastered its details he sent drawings and models to his brother, George Roberts. A machine was erected by William Kemp in Huddersfield Mill, Galashiels, but on trial was found to be a failure.

Mr Wilson of Earlston and Mr Houldsworth of Glasgow took up the idea, and obtained a patent for what they considered a perfect machine. Several were sold to Galashiels manufacturers, but still it was found to produce unequal yarn, and Mr Roberts was censured for being the primary cause of much money being thrown away in defective machinery.

Some years afterwards Mr Roberts returned home, and discovered that an essential part of the machine had been neglected, viz., the feeding apparatus which took the wool from the cards in the form of a sliver. This portion of the machine, after lying for years in a garret, was sought out, and under Mr Roberts' personal supervision it was erected at Selkirk in a small place that formed the nucleus of the Forest Mill. The result proved a complete success, and all the condensers in Galashiels were fitted with the sliver-feeding apparatus as speedily as possible.

Another simple improvement was introduced by Mr Roberts. This consisted of an emery roller for grinding and sharpening the cards. He constructed the first one with his own hands, and the effect was surprising. The hitherto insuperable difficulty of getting the workers and doffers close enough to the cylinder was entirely removed.

1833 In 1833 the new statistical account was published, in which the Rev. Nathaniel Paterson, the parish minister, thus refers to the state of the woollen trade at that time,—

“There can be no want of success from inability to spin a fine thread, as I have seen a specimen of yarn so delicately drawn that the eye would doubt whether the substance were still in a state of carded wool, the lineal measure of one pound of wool being more than thirty-seven miles in length (144 cut.)

Attempts have not been wanting to produce broad-cloths of the finest quality, but these have hitherto been but scantily supplied. At this date there are 132 looms, but considering their width as compared with those formerly in use, they are equal to 187 of the old construction. There are also on the average sixteen slubbers and eighty children engaged by the year working eleven hours per day, and receiving annually £1387, 4s; twenty to thirty-six spinners paid by the piece receiving £1092, 8s; one hundred weavers on piece work receive £2600; sixty dyers and dressers working ten hours per day whose wages amount to £1560; and forty-six women sorting wool and yarn, £520; or a total amount of wages paid annually, £7159, 12s.

The annual consumption of wool amounts to 21,500 stones of 24 lbs., of which 21,000 is home grown, and 500 chiefly from Van Diemen's Land. Nearly half of the raw material is made into knitting yarns, flannels, shawls, and plaids; the other half being used for narrow-cloths at from 1s 8d to 6s 6d per yard, together with crumblcloth or carpeting of grey or mixed colours. The Board of Trustees declared that by the use of foreign wool the flannels of Galashiels are finer than anything made in Scotland, if not even the finest of Welsh manufacture. Blankets, partly of the Scotch and partly of the English mode of manufacture, are extensively produced from the white or unlaied wool of the country, and blanket shawls of many colours are in great demand, the price for these ranging from 3s to 30s each. A new style of cloth has also been introduced, called Indiana, used for ladies' dresses, costing 8s or 9s per yard. The total number of spindles is 5336, the children employed in the mills range from eight to fourteen years, and are paid at the rate of sixpence per day of eleven hours.”

1837 In 1837 the Clothiers' Corporation consisted of the following members, who are divided into sections, showing the several branches of the trade which each firm pursued,—

“WOOLLEN CLOTH, SHAWLS, AND TARTANS.

Robert & George Lees, Galabank Mill.	Geo. Roberts & Co., Bridge Street.
Henry Sanderson, Weirhaugh Mill.	Robt. & Alex. Sanderson, Gala Mill.

WOOLLEN CLOTH AND SHAWLS.

Ballantyne & Tait, Buckholmside.	Thomas Davidson, Bridge Street.
Hugh & Geo. Dobson, Bridge Street.	William Dobson, Netherhaugh.
Gill, Sime, & Co., High Street.	Inglis & Paterson, Buckholmside.
Metcalf & Ballantyne, Wilderhaugh.	James Roberts, Huddersfield.
Waddel & Turnbull, Buckholmside.	Robt. Walker & Sons, Wilderhaugh.
Joshua Wood & Sons, Buckholmside.	

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## WOOLLEN CLOTH.

James Bathgate, Netherhaugh.	T. & G. Clapperton, Wilderhaugh
John & Walter Cochrane, Mid Mill.	Robert Frier, Thomson's Mill.
William Gill, Overhaugh.	George Paterson, Huddersfield.
Robert Paterson, Buckholmside.	William Roberts, Waulkmillhead
James Rutherford, Thomson's Mill (Rosebank).	

## TARTANS.

James Sanderson, Bridge Street.

## MANUFACTURERS OF YARN.

Gilbert Dalgliesh, Thomson's Mill.	Robert Frier, Thomson's Mill.
James Rutherford, Bridge Street.	Geo. Roberts & Co., Bridge Street.
James Walker, Island Street.	James Sanderson, Bridge Street.
Joshua Wood & Sons, Buckholmside.	

## BLANKETS.

Thomas Davidson, Bridge Street.	Gill, Sime, & Co., High Street.
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## FLANNELS

William Gill, Overhaugh.	James Rutherford, Bridge Street.
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## HOSIERY.

Wm. & And. Hislop, Bridge Street.	James Walker, Island Street."
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The first steam engine for manufacturing purposes was erected in 1836 at Ladhope Mill, it being of twenty-five horse power; but, while steam was used for stationary engines, the locomotive was as yet unknown in the district. All the raw material was brought and the finished goods removed by the carriers, who at this time created a considerable amount of feeling by endeavouring to raise the rates forty per cent. for carrying goods between Galashiels and Edinburgh. This increase was resented by a large section of the Corporation, who took steps to provide other means of transit for their goods, independent of the local carriers.

1838 In 1838 negotiations were entered into with James Marshall, of Preston, and an agreement was concluded on the following terms,—

"We, the undersigned, are willing to give you our carriage in the event of your thinking proper of establishing yourself as a carrier between this place and Edinburgh and Leith, upon the following conditions,—

- I.—That we give you the carriage of our goods to and from Edinburgh and Leith for the space of three years from Whitsunday first, at which date our obligations begin.
- II.—That the rate of carriage from Edinburgh and Leith to Galashiels and *vice versa* shall be fourteenpence per cwt., and that no charge for warehouse rent, carriage, or portorage shall be made on delivery.
- III.—That goods for London shall be delivered at the warehouse of the shipping company in Leith; that goods for Glasgow, if addressed by canal shall be delivered at the canal basin, and if by carrier to the warehouse of the carrier in Edinburgh. Goods for other places shall in like manner be delivered free to the respective carriers for such places.
- IV.—That you forward with all regularity and despatch all goods either to or from us.
- V.—Carts to leave Galashiels and Edinburgh twice in the week on such days as may be convenient for us, to be afterwards settled, the carts shall call at our warehouses for goods at a proper time, previous to each journey, without any extra charge.

R. & A. Sanderson.	Gill, Sime, & Co.	Davidson & Monteith.
Henry Sanderson.	J. & W. Cochrane.	Robert & George Lees.
Robert Frier.	William Roberts.	W. & A. Hislop.
G. Dalglish.	Ballantyne & Tait.	Jas. Bathgate.
George Paterson.	James Roberts.	George Roberts & Co."

These terms were accepted by the carrier, with the stipulation that carboys were to be paid for at the rate of 3s each, empties returned free, all goods delivered free in Glasgow, but goods consigned elsewhere charged twopence each parcel for delivery. To these terms the manufacturers agreed, and the new carrier started business.

1839 In 1839, the wages of weavers engaged on blankets and white plaidings were 12s per week; for checks, 15s; for shawls, 16s; and for twill cloth and tartan, 16s 6d. When in full employment, the average wage of the 265 weavers employed in the town at this time was 14s 3d per week.

It is recorded at this date that

"The manufacturing interest in the spirited little town of Galashiels is at present in a very thriving condition. All hands are employed, wages are good, and there is a prospect of continued prosperity during winter. As a proof of the flourishing condition of the town, the capital of the place has at

the very least been tripled during the last ten years. This great increase of capital taken in connection with the superior skill of her manufacturers and the industrious character of the population, for which Galashiels has been long distinguished, affords the surest guarantee of a career of commercial prosperity.

Notwithstanding the large additions that have been made to the size of the town during the last few years, every house is occupied and the demand continues unabated.

1841 In 1841 an incident took place, which, considering the opportunities which existed at the time, was fortunately of rare occurrence. It was customary in fine weather to leave the cloth upon the tenters overnight, and advantage was taken of this practice to carry off a quantity of cloth from two manufactories. The Corporation offered a reward of £50, which was supplemented by £20 from the counties of Roxburgh and Selkirk for the capture of the thief. There were no policemen at this time in the town, and the Sheriff-officer, named James Wright, took up the case. He succeeded in tracking the thief to Edinburgh, where he ran him down in a lodging-house in the West Port. Procuring the services of the nearest policeman, they entered the room where the culprit was sleeping, and effected the arrest. When Wright claimed the reward, he found the policeman had also lodged a claim, and, till the question was settled, the reward was withheld. An action was raised in the Sheriff Court, but the dispute remained unsettled till 1846, when the policeman died. Wright then made a compromise with the representatives of the deceased, and received the £70 without further trouble.

1843 In 1843 the Corporation consisted of the following members,

"Robert & George Lees, Galabank Mill.	Gilbert Dalglish, Rosebank Mill.
T. & G. Clapperton, Wilderhaugh.	William Gill, ,,
Stephen Metcalf, ,,	Robert Frier, ,,
Robert Walker & Sons, ,,	Gill, Sime, & Co., Botany Mill.
J. & A. Watson, ,,	Henry Sanderson, ,,
Mr Cruden, ,,	J. & W. Cochrane, Mid Mill.
Wm. Roberts & Son, Waulkmillhead.	J. Bathgate & Son, Nether Mill.
G. Roberts & Son, Huddersfield Mill.	R. & A. Sanderson & Co., Gala Mill.



James Roberts, Huddersfield Mill.  
 George Paterson, „  
 Davidson & Monteith, Ladhope Mill.  
 Waddell & Turnbull, „  
 Ballantyne & Tait, „

Sanderson & Sibbald, Abbots Mill.  
 Joshua Wood & Sons, Ladhope Mill.  
 Francis Inglis, Ladhope Mill.  
 James Graham, Ladhope Mill.”

1849 In 1849 Francis Inglis was Deacon of the Corporation, and he has left on record that the price of the ticket for the dinner was six shillings, that for the ball eight shillings, or combined twelve shillings. On this occasion there remained a balance of £4, which was given towards the relief of the deserving poor.

The first difficulty between employers and employed now occurred. The manufacturers considered that they were handicapped in consequence of having to pay a higher rate for weaving than was paid elsewhere, and they drew up a new statement based upon an exhaustive inquiry into the rates of payment current in various parts of the country. This was submitted to a meeting of the weavers, numbering about 500, who unanimously agreed to reject it on the ground that their incomes would be reduced from ten to thirty per cent. With the exception of the men employed in Galabank Mill, the proprietors of which had taken no part in the proposed reduction, the whole weavers in the town struck work. At the same time the men drew up a statement on which they would be willing to resume work, and presented it to their employers. This, however, was rejected on account of it raising the rate in certain respects even higher than formerly. One firm offered their men eighteen shillings per week to resume work, but the offer was declined. The weavers sent deputations to all the manufacturing towns on the Borders, as well as to Alloa, Tillicoultry, &c. They were provided by the employers with letters of introduction to the manufacturers in these places, so that they might be enabled to obtain credible information regarding the various rates paid elsewhere. After the deputies returned anxious and protracted meetings were held between the contending parties. A fresh statement was mutually agreed upon, and the strike came to an

end. The result was that in the coarser kinds of work the weaver gained an advantage, while in regard to finer goods the benefit lay on the side of the employer. One point, however, was gained by the weavers,—they were relieved from the expense of winding the weft, while those who worked outside the weaving-shop belonging to the firm by which they were employed were also relieved from payment of gas. During the continuance of the dispute the operatives were temperate and peaceful, while the employers were forbearing, and showed a readiness to negotiate.

The manners and customs which prevailed in the factories during the first half of the present century exhibit a strong contrast to those now in vogue. At that time the relation between employer and employed was of a much more intimate nature, and both stood on a footing of greater familiarity with each other than now prevails. In the earlier years of the woollen trade the employer was generally a skilled workman, and took an active part in forwarding the work in one or other of the various processes in the manufacture of cloth. In course of time, as business expanded, his presence was more required in the office than in the wareroom or finishing department. The hours of labour were then longer, and, owing to the introduction of self-acting machinery, the work is now lighter than it was at that period. In those days there was no lodge erected at the mill gates, no fines for being late in the morning or at meal hours, and the weavers, in particular, came and went at such times as suited their convenience. The wages were paid monthly, on the Saturday afternoon, and the Monday following was by a number of weavers usually devoted to the worship of Bacchus. The faithful votaries used to meet at various places in the locality. The leafy glades of Gala Woods, the sunny side of Buckholm Hill, and the well in the Rye Haugh were favourite summer resorts on such occasions. There they poured libations as long as their cash lasted or a worshipper could be found sober enough to "rin the cutter." This habit to many was but the prelude to a drinking bout that extended over the week, which

proved a source of grief and vexation to their wives and families. In connection with one of these long-suffering females the following incident is narrated. Her husband was a weaver in Rosebank Mill, and one morning at the breakfast hour she personally conducted him to his work. Taking up her position in the wooded bank on the opposite side of the road, she sat down to knit her stocking, grimly determined to keep him sober for that day at least. The time went slowly past, workers came and went, but she was certain Sandy was not amongst them. About mid-day she observed two or three of his drouthy cronies come out, one of them staggering under a heavy basket apparently filled with yarn, with which he struggled round the corner and disappeared. The dinner hour came at length, but Sandy did not make his appearance. Waiting till her patience was exhausted, she entered the mill and made inquiry regarding him, and, to her dismay, was told that he had not been seen for at least a couple of hours. She suddenly remembered the basket, and, filled with suspicion, she hurried off to that once favourite howff, "Nannie Knox's," where the first thing she saw was the identical basket with a few cuts of yarn lying in the bottom, and beside it Sandy and his faithful cronies "a' as fou as pipers."

Many of the weavers were enthusiastic anglers, and when their web was in no special hurry they frequently indulged in a day's angling, if Tweed happened to be in good condition. Regularly, in the middle of the three "yokings" into which the day was divided, the weavers and others made their appearance at the mill door for the purpose of indulging in a smoke, while it was not uncommon during working hours to observe a group of female workers making the round of the drapers' shops busily employed in examining the finery there displayed.



## CHAPTER XIII.

1851 **T**HE year 1851 is memorable in the industrial world on account of the first great International Exhibition held in London. Galashiels manufacturers were the largest contributors in the woollen and worsted trade on that occasion, occupying 2016 feet of hanging space. The following description of their exhibits is extracted from an article in the *Scotsman* of that date,—

“Out of the sixteen firms belonging to Galashiels, eleven show, the first being J. & A. Watson, who are strongest in their fine specimens of clan plaids. (These goods were made from the finest German lambs’ wool procurable, and woven four threads in the split, the warp being 109, and the weft 120 cut.) Messrs Cochrane, who have some excellent examples of double-milled tweeds in clan and fancy patterns. Messrs Sanderson & Sibbald, with excellent spring fabrics in fancy patterns. William Roberts & Co., specimens of single-milled or summer tweeds of fine light texture. R. & T. Dickson, tweeds with the check brought beautifully out by raising it on the surface, also some very fine wool shawls on mixed grounds. Inglis & Brown, fine sample of checked tweeds in various colours, which are brought out in a very superior style. Robert & George Lees, excellent samples of six-quarter clan tartans, and a very fine variety of clan plaids. H. Ballantyne & Son, a very large assortment of clan and fancy tweeds, and long double shawls deriving a stylish appearance from being greatly enlarged in pattern. T. & G. Clapperton, fine wool shawls and single-milled fancy tweeds. James Sime & Co.—the visitor will be struck with some specimens of white wool shawls made from perhaps the finest Saxony yarn that has been yet spun in the district. Also a variety of patterns of clan and mixed grounds, with one or two wool checked vestings, a gentleman’s travelling plaid of very fine wool, weighing 8½ lbs., and a shepherdess plaid of very fine yarn and beautiful pattern. R. & A. Sanderson & Co., a fine assortment of clan and mixed long shawls.”

At the conclusion of the exhibition medals were awarded, of which twelve came to Scotland. Of these, four came to Galashiels, three to Paisley, and one each to Glasgow, Aberdeen, Alloa, Hawick, and Selkirk. The successful competitors in Galashiels were Inglis & Brown, for Scotch tweeds; Robert &

## HISTORY OF GALASHIELS.

George Lees, for plaids, shawls, and cloakings; William & Co., Scotch tweeds; and R. & A. Sanderson & Co. for Scotch woollen clan and fancy plaids.

1854 On the 1st September, 1854, the new Act came into operation for regulating the employment of children and young persons. Under its provisions none under eighteen years of age were allowed to be employed before six A.M. or after six P.M.; this regulation also applied to all female manufacturers were also required to fence and box the parts of shafting and gearing by which the first motion was communicated to any machine.

1855 In connection with the proposed exhibition in 1855, a meeting of the woollen trade was convened with the purpose of having the industry suitably represented on the occasion, and it was resolved,—

I.—That the meeting respond to the invitation of the Imperial Government of France to contribute specimens of their productions to the Industrial Exhibition.

II.—While the advantages to be derived are not apparent, it is resolved to strengthen the good understanding between the two nations.

III.—That to secure a complete exhibition of the woollen manufactures of Scotland, a public subscription should be entered into for the purpose of defraying the expense."

A committee was appointed to carry out the above resolution. Owing to the limited space put at the disposal of the Scottish woollen manufacturers, the idea of exhibiting in one body was departed from, but it was left optional on the part of the individual firms to apply for space.

1859 In 1859 a new system was inaugurated by Robert Sanderson, Deacon of the Corporation, who departed from the old and honoured but stereotyped minute regarding the annual dinner and ball, which the great majority of former Deacons are said to have considered the only occurrence throughout the year worthy of being placed on record. On this occasion, however, the Deacon states that,—

“The history of the trade for the past year has been marked by steady and unchecked prosperity. Numerous extensions have been made, and many important improvements in machinery have been effected.”

This gratifying position seems to have been maintained, as the next Deacon, J. Dalziel, also leaves on record that,—

“Notwithstanding the unsettled state of America owing to the civil war, as well as the almost prohibitive clauses of the Morill Tariff, the trade of the town has continued in a flourishing condition.”

1862      In 1862 Adam Cochrane, jun., recorded that,—

“Upon the whole, the trade of the town had been good, but the French treaty had not realized the expectations formed of it so far as the trade of Galashiels was concerned, the goods being of too high a quality to suit the continental trade. The goods sent from Galashiels to the Exhibition attracted considerable notice, and showed the very decided progress that had been made since the former Exhibition held in London eleven years ago.”

In connection with this exhibition, the following awards were received:—J. & W. Cochrane, medal for superior Scotch tweeds and shepherd's plaids; and George Lees, medal for superior Saxony wool tartans in cloakings, shawls, and Saxony wool tweeds.

1863      Previous to 1863 no proper provision had been made for the purpose of extinguishing fires, which, considering the inflammable nature of the various factories, was much required. Hitherto, when a conflagration took place, the only method of coping with it had been by means of pails, which were passed from hand to hand by a line of men extending between the outbreak and the nearest water supply. At this time the Manufacturers' Corporation offered to present the town with a fire engine on the condition that the Local Authority provided suitable accommodation for it, together with a competent staff to ensure its being properly handled. This offer was accepted, and the Corporation assessed themselves according to the number of sets of carding machines in the possession of each member. Upon this being done, it was found that there were sixty and a half sets in operation.

It is stated by William Brown, the Deacon at this time, that

“The trade of the town has kept remarkably good, the output of goods exceeding anything previously recorded in the history of the trade. Important additions had been made to the productive power of several of the mills, and a great difficulty existed in obtaining workers owing to the want of house accommodation.”

1866      Previous to 1866 the wages in the factories had been paid monthly on the Saturday afternoon. At this time the change to fortnightly payments on the Tuesday was introduced.

At this time a movement was originated by Adam Cochrane, jun., for the purpose of procuring copies of the portraits of Sir Walter Scott and the Rev. Dr Douglas. It was proposed that they should be hung in some public place as a fitting memorial of the services these gentlemen had rendered to the trade of the town in the earlier years of its existence. These portraits were painted by F. Cruikshanks, Edinburgh, from the originals, in both cases by Raeburn. A deputation headed by George Bathgate, manufacturer, waited upon the Magistrates and Commissioners, and stated that it was the desire of the subscribers that the portraits be hung in the Public Hall and held in trust by the Magistrates and Commissioners for the behoof of the inhabitants of Galashiels. The Chief Magistrate thanked the deputation, and accepted the portraits on these conditions. Afterwards the question arose regarding the power to remove these portraits in the event of municipal buildings being erected. The matter was discussed, and it was agreed that, in terms of the heading on the subscription sheet, “they were to be kept in the Public Hall, and be held by the Commissioners of Police as public property.”

## CHAPTER XIV.

1870 **T**HE question of river pollution had been agitated for some time by the riparian proprietors on the Tweed below Galafoot, and at length a Commission visited the district and took evidence bearing on the question, representatives being present from Hawick, Selkirk, and Innerleithen. In the course of the evidence given by John Cochrane it transpired that the annual turn-over of woollen goods in Galashiels amounted to £500,000; wages paid, £100,000; and the value of buildings and machinery engaged in the woollen trade was estimated at £300,000.

1871 In the official report on the woollen fabrics shown by the Galashiels manufacturers in the exhibition held in 1871, it is stated that

“The Galashiels display of trouserings and suitings was extremely good. Those from Adam L. Cochrane Bros. are novel in design and of very fine finish. Messrs Brown Bros. have also ten specimens, well made, soft and clear in colour. J. & W. Cochrane’s tweeds from coloured wool, and James Mitchell & Co.’s fancy tweeds, shepherd plaids and eccentric suitings are good specimens of the manufacture in Galashiels, and the ten specimens made from Australian wool by J. Sibbald & Son are remarkable for their very high quality of material and structure, and for their cleanness and perfect finish. The summer and winter tweeds of pure Colonial wool are a specialty of the manufacturers of Galashiels and are well represented in the exhibits of Messrs P. & R. Sanderson, whilst Messrs R. & A. Sanderson show the home style of Cheviots, with some good qualities from Saxony wool.”

Owing to the rapid extension of the town, it now became a matter of pressing importance that greater facilities should be afforded in the matter of obtaining ground for building purposes. In these circumstances, the following letter was received by the Deacon of the Corporation,—

1872

HOTEL DE LONDRES, PAU,  
LES BASSES PYRENEES, FRANCE,  
4th October, 1872.

MY DEAR SIR,

It is, I need hardly say, matter of sincere regret that I cannot be present at your approaching festivities, to which I need hardly add I wish every success.

The unbroken success in trade naturally holds out bright prospects for the future of the town, and it may be perhaps not without interest to your Corporation to know that I am at present maturing a plan, the primary object of which is to impart a greater concentration of the building operations, and to remove the inconveniences attendant on the narrowness of the whole position of the town at present.

Whilst I do not undervalue the pecuniary advantages which my property will derive from the proposed scheme of enlargement, it is not without reluctance that I have sacrificed a good deal of the amenity of my policy, but I could not but see that I had either to a certain extent to deviate from the policy of my family as regards the development of the commercial interests of the town, or else adhere to that policy in its integrity by meeting the growing wants, which were practically the creation of that policy *per se*.

It has been a matter of sincere regret that I was not able to be at Gala in summer, when I could have consulted with many conversant with the whole subject and have derived more practical information than I at present possess as to the growing requirements of the burgh.

But I have never yet discovered that delay in the carrying-out and maturing of public undertakings operated otherwise than beneficially toward the undertakings themselves and the public interest, and I do not believe any of them have suffered much injury in consequence.

It is possible that making such a statement is hardly consistent with the official business of your Corporation, but still, as your Corporation has been the main instrument of enlarging the town, I thought it only right to acquaint you with the character of the plans being organised, which, I doubt not, you will kindly excuse.

I am, Yours very truly,

(Signed) HUGH SCOTT."

TO THE DEACON OF THE MANUFACTURERS'  
CORPORATION OF GALASHIELS.

At a meeting of the Corporation held shortly afterwards,  
Adam Cochrane, jun., proposed

"That as an expression of the high appreciation in which the policy of Major Scott has been held in time past, he be requested to do the Corporation the honour of sitting for a full length portrait, to be hung in the Public Hall with those of Sir Walter Scott and Dr Douglas."

The Corporation agreed to the proposal, and Mr Scott consented to give sittings for this purpose. The portrait was painted by George Reid, A.R.S.A., and unveiled in the Public Hall on the 26th December, 1873.

Shortly before this event a rather noteworthy incident occurred. An embassy from Japan having visited this country, they notified their intention of paying a visit to Galashiels. The Deacon of the Corporation, W. A. Plummer Sanderson, and other representative gentlemen met the distinguished strangers at the Railway Station, and drove off to inspect the factory of J. & W. Cochrane. A very careful inspection of the various processes of manufacture was made, and information requested regarding rates of wages, value of goods, &c. After spending an hour and a half in this manner, the visitors were conveyed to the Public Hall, where they were entertained by the Corporation, the local committee of the South of Scotland Chamber of Commerce, and the Municipality. The Deacon presided, and John Morrison fulfilled the duties of croupier. After lunch, the loyal toasts were given by the chairman, and the croupier gave "The Mikado of Japan." The principal ambassador replied in Japanese, which was interpreted by his private secretary. The Deacon then gave the toast, "The Ambassadors from Japan," which was also interpreted and replied to. One of the embassy proposed the health of the Deacon and Corporation, to which the Deacon replied. Adam Cochrane, jun., proposed the healths of Sir Harry Parkes, General Alexander, and Mr Ashiton, who travelled along with the embassy. William Sime gave "The Ladies," which was responded to by Kenneth Cochrane. The proceedings then terminated by the band playing the National Anthem.

## CHAPTER XV.

1876 **T**HE centenary of the Corporation was celebrated on the 13th October, 1876, on which occasion ninety gentlemen dined in the Public Hall. The Deacon, James Mitchell, presided, and was supported on the right and left respectively by Sir Graham Montgomery, M.P., and G. O. Trevelyan, M.P. Andrew Brown, the Deacon-elect, acted as croupier. The chairman gave the loyal toasts, Captain Sime responding on behalf of the 1st Selkirk (Gala) Rifles. The croupier gave "Both Houses of Parliament," to which reply was made by Sir Graham Montgomery. The Deacon proposed "The Health of Mr Trevelyan," who replied in a lengthy speech. John Murray of Glenmayne proposed "Major Scott of Gala." "The Clergy" was proposed by Alexander Rutherford, and replied to by Dr Gloag. Mr Trevelyan proposed "The Town and Trade," to which the Deacon responded. "The Sister Burghs" was given by William Brown of Galahill, and replied to by Walter Laing, Hawick; and Ex-Provost Roberts, Selkirk. John Sanderson of London proposed "The Agricultural Interest," to which Mr Hopkirk, Langlee, replied. Adam Cochrane, jun., proposed "Our Visitors," to which Mr Russell of Glasgow responded. The remaining toasts were "The Deacon-elect," "The Corporation of Galashiels," and "The Ladies."

During the course of the proceedings James Smail, banker, was called upon for a song, and complied by singing, amid much applause, the following verses of his own composition,—

"Auld time again, wi' faithfu' hand,  
Has brought the season roun',  
When festive joy takes fair command  
O' guid auld Gala toun.  
When festive joy takes fair command,  
As in the days langsyne;



## HISTORY OF GALASHIELS.

When fathers o' the present band  
 Nae mirth or glee wad tyne.  
 And merry hearted here we meet,  
 On this centennial day;  
 It's better far to laugh than greet  
 O'er time that's passed away.

For there' nae luck aboot them, nane,  
 Nae pluck ava,  
 Wha grimly sit an' sich an' grane  
 O'er pleasure fled awa.

Langsyne the wark of honest men  
 Brought credit to the toun;  
 And she has credit yet, we ken,  
 And likewise some renown.  
 The 'Gala Greys' o' early days,  
 What though their style was tame,  
 They made the vera best o' claes,  
 And brought some honest fame.  
 And now though we the world round  
 Hae webs o' every hue;  
 In heart they're still unchanged and sound,  
 Our tweeds are leal and true.

And there's nae buck, howe'er sae crouse,  
 Nae man ava;  
 Nor lady, be she brisk or douce,  
 But we can cleed fu' braw.

Trade's fickle changes in the past  
 Were met wi' pluck and skill;  
 And should her sky again o'er cast  
 We hae the weapons still.  
 But fortune guid has waved her flag  
 Around us mony a year;  
 Though whiles, when orders stop or lag,  
 The times look kind o' queer.  
 When neebour then wi' neebour meets,  
 Lang faces oft they draw;  
 For big returns and sma' repeats,  
 A very Job wad staw.

And there's 'Soor Plums' in Galashiels,  
 Soor looks an' a',  
 When \*'pigs' come back frae buyer chiels  
 Wha dinna care a straw.

\* Pigs—i.e., rejected goods.

True men frae peasant up to king  
 A' work wi' might and main;  
 And labour never fails to bring  
 A pleasure o' her ain.  
 The secret here of a' success  
 Is never-flinching toil;  
 And men and masters forward press  
 To join in the turmoil.  
 The vera Gala rins wi' speed  
 To join us in the race;  
 Syne toddles doon to rest in Tweed,  
 And freshen up her face.

And there's great glee in Galashiels,  
 Nae doot ava;  
 When merrily rin her thousand wheels,  
 And hands are working a'."

1878 In 1878 the Deacon reported that the state of trade was dull, aggravated by the failure of the City of Glasgow Bank.

At the Paris Exhibition a gold medal was awarded to Adam L. Cochrane & Bros., while silver medals came to William Brown & Sons and R. & A. Sanderson & Co.

A meeting of riparian proprietors on Tweedside was held at St Boswells for the purpose of considering what steps should be taken to put a stop to the pollution of the Tweed, caused by the discharges from the various factories in the town, and the result was communicated to the Deacon of the Corporation, James Sanderson of Woodlands, in the following terms,—

"66 QUEEN STREET, EDINBURGH, 11th November, 1878.

GENTLEMEN,—A meeting of riparian proprietors on the river Tweed was held at St Boswells on the 1st inst. in order to consider the steps to be taken for preventing the pollution which at the present is discharged from the Gala into the Tweed, and which has of late years enormously increased, thus creating a serious nuisance to the lower proprietors on the river, and detriment to their properties.

Lord Polwarth was in the chair, and there was a large attendance of proprietors and others interested. The meeting, after full consideration, came to a resolution, authorising us to address this communication to you, and to request you to inform us whether you are prepared to take steps, by filtration of the discharge from your mills or otherwise, for putting a stop to this nuisance.

X

We are directed to report the answer which we receive to this communication to a future meeting, and should your reply not be satisfactory, it is intended to take proceedings against you and the other mill owners to enforce your adoption of remedial measures. We shall therefore be glad to hear from you in reply to this letter within a fortnight from this date.

We are, Your obedient servants,

(Signed) TODS, MURRAY, & JAMIESON."

A meeting of the Corporation was called, and the above communication was read, when it was agreed to do everything that was practicable to remedy the pollution complained of. Notwithstanding that a reply was sent to this effect, and also the information that several firms were actually proceeding with the construction of works for the purpose, the riparian proprietors refused to accept of their assurance, and raised an action against them at common law. Every individual mill-owner was served with a summons from the Court of Session. Negotiations were opened with the view of staying proceedings and settling the matter out of Court, but without success.

1880 During the first year the case passed through several stages in the Court of Session. In July, 1880, a joint minute was arranged between the parties, in which the defenders expressed their willingness, if it was found necessary, to adopt such further remedial measures as would be considered best calculated to remove any ground of complaint on the part of the pursuers. Both parties concurred in craving that the matter be remitted to Professor Crum Brown, with duties as detailed in the following interlocutor,—

"The Lord Ordinary in respect of joint minutes Nos. 19 and 20 of process, grants decree of declarator against the defenders subscribing the same in terms of the admissions therein, and decerns:—Of consent remits to Professor Crum Brown, Edinburgh, with power to him to employ such engineering assistance as he may find requisite to inspect the said defenders' works, and the arrangements which these defenders or any of them have made or propose to make to prevent the pollution of the Tweed from their works, and to report whether the said arrangements are sufficient for that purpose, and if not, what other arrangements would in his opinion be required. Finds said defenders liable in expenses, as the same shall be taxed by the Auditor.

(Signed) AND. R. CLARK."

The final report of Professor Crum Brown described the chemical and other expedients applied at Gala Mills to the soapy liquids, spirit, dye liquors, &c., and he stated that the arrangements made by R. & A. Sanderson & Co. at Gala Mills were, if maintained in good order and worked in accordance with the system in use there, sufficient to prevent the pollution of the Tweed from the above works. The report also stated that there was no trace of any pollution of the Gala from the mills of James Mitchell & Co. and Currie, M'Dougall, & Scott. Lord Kinnear considered the report and issued the following interlocutor,—

1883

*"23rd June, 1883.*

"The Lord Ordinary having heard parties on the report of Professor Crum Brown, No. 25 of process, approves of said report. Finds that as regards the defenders, Messrs R. & A. Sanderson & Co., Messrs Currie, McDougall, & Scott, and Messrs James Mitchell & Co., it is unnecessary to pronounce any further order on the merits of the case, and dismisses the action so far as directed against them and decerns, and, as regards the other defenders, remits to Professor Crum Brown, with power as formerly, to take engineering assistance to see executed the various works requiring to be constructed by the defenders, in terms of said report, and of the minutes lodged for them Nos. 35, 36, 37, 38, 39 and 40 of process:—Further, directs Professor Crum Brown to report at the end of six months from this date the progress made in the execution of the various works:—Finds the pursuers entitled to expenses to this date, so far as not already disposed of, and remits the account thereof to the Auditor to tax and report.

*(Signed) A. S. KINNEAR."*

Shortly afterwards the following interlocutor was pronounced in connection with the case,—

"The Lord Ordinary having heard parties on the report of Professor Crum Brown approves of said report, finds that as regards the defenders, Messrs A. L. Cochrane & Bros. and Messrs Hugh Sanderson & Son, it is unnecessary to pronounce any further order on the merits of the case, and dismisses the action, so far as directed against them and decerns. Finds pursuers entitled to expenses."

1885

On the 6th May, 1885, the Deacon of the Corporation, George McDougall, informed Professor Crum Brown that all the works were completed, and, after a minute inspection, the

Professor expressed himself much pleased with the result; and at length, after seven years' worry, the pollution case was brought to a close.

1886 On the 16th January, 1886, the final report was issued to the Court of Session, in which the various purification works throughout the town were declared to be "permanent and satisfactory." Although difficult to estimate correctly, the cost of these works at the various factories was at least £35,000, in addition to the legal expenses, which amounted to £2160.

With a view of acknowledging the valuable services rendered by the firm of R. & A. Sanderson & Co. in connection with the purification scheme, the Deacon of the Corporation was instructed to communicate with them in reference to some recognition of the skill and trouble which they had shown and taken in the case. In reply the Deacon received the following letter,—

"DEAR SIR,

We are favoured with yours of the 26th inst. and desire to thank the Corporation for the resolution which you have been kind enough to convey to us. Your letter we esteem to be sufficient recognition of any little service we have been to the members of the Corporation with reference to the purification of the discharges from the mills.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) R. & A. SANDERSON & Co."

The death of John Cochrane occurred in 1884. In him the town lost the last connecting link with the men who founded the woollen industry of Galashiels. Mr Cochrane was born in 1793, and during his long life had always resided in the place of his birth. He had seen it emerge by leaps and bounds from the cluster of cottages round the old Cross to the busy town now known over the world in connection with the tweed trade.

"They have passed away,  
The patriarch heroes of our trade's success,  
The good old pioneers whose faithfulness,  
Untiring energy, and skill have won  
The world's applause, and lit the blessed sun  
Of bounteous plenty in their native vale,  
Where happy concord and goodwill prevail.

Now none are left;  
 The whitened head, the old familiar face  
 Is never seen, even in the very place  
 Which their shrewd sense and eident hands have made.  
 Our streets, now crowded, know them not who laid  
 All their foundations, as with pride we know,  
 In the hard fight and toil of long ago."

In bringing the history of the Manufacturers' Corporation to a close, the following statistics are given to show the progress of the woollen trade of the town in the past, which may prove of interest and afford ground for comparison in the future,—

## NUMBER OF CARDING ENGINES IN

1791, 1 set.	1825, 14 set.	1843, 28 set.	1864, 60 set.
1794, 3 ,,	1828, 15 ,,	1846, 30 ,,	1886, 114 ,,
1805, 7 ,,	1837, 22 ,,	1847, 36 ,,	1896, 128 ,,
1818, 12 ,,	1840, 25 ,,	1853, 39 ,,	

1896 In 1896 there were 96,152 mule spindles, 667 "slow" power-looms making from forty-five to fifty picks per minute, and 448 "fast" looms making from eighty to ninety picks. There were also twenty-eight broad looms having a reed space extending to one hundred and thirty inches, and forty-five hand looms engaged in the production of tweeds, besides pattern looms, of which no note has been taken.

The motive power employed was equal to 3598 indicated horse-power, viz., 3110 from steam, 46 from gas, and 442 from water.

In 1896 the Galashiels Manufacturers' Corporation consisted of the following firms, viz.,—

"Brown Brothers, Buckholm Mill; William Roberts & Co., Victoria Mill; Arthur Dickson & Co., Wheatlands Mill; J. & W. Cochrane, Mid Mill; Hugh Sanderson & Son, Comelybank Mill; James Shaw & Brothers, Nether Mill; J. & J. C. Dorward, Waukrigg Mill; J. & W. Roberts, Waverley Mill; George Lees & Co., Galabank Mill; George Paterson & Co., Huddersfield Mill; William Brown & Sons, Wilderbank Mill; Currie, McDougall, & Scott, Langhaugh Mill; Keddie, Gordon & Co., Rosebank Mill; R. & A. Sanderson & Co., Gala Mill; Sime, Sanderson & Co., Botany Mill; Ovens, Hunter & Co., Abbot's Mill; A. L. Cochrane & Bros., Ltd., Netherdale Mill; Laidlaw & Fairgrieve, Ladhope Mill; P. & R. Sanderson, Tweed Mill; Sanderson & Murray, Ltd., Buckholmside Skin Works."

The following are the names of those individuals who have acted as Deacon since 1785, with the date of their election, no record of the office-bearers having been kept previous to that period, --

1785, James Mercer.	1823, James Rutherford.	1861, Adam Cochrane, jr.
1786, John Roberts.	1824, James Brown.	1862, Henry Roberts.
1787, Richard Lees.	1825, John Cochrane.	1863, William Brown.
1788, Adam Cochrane,	1826, Robert Sanderson.	1864, Wm. A. Sanderson.
1789, Robert Walker.	1827, James Roberts.	1865, George Bogue.
1790, William Johnstone.	1828, Walter Cochrane.	1866, Henry Brown.
1791, David Grieve.	1829, G. Roberts, jun.	1867, Arch. Cochrane.
1792, Robert Gill.	1830, Henry Brown.	1868, Kenneth Cochrane.
1793, And. Henderson.	1831, Henry Sanderson.	1869, William Sime.
1794, Hugh Sanderson.	1832, Robert Paterson.	1870, Adam Brown.
1795, William Thomson.	1833, James Sanderson.	1871, R. Sanderson.
1796, William Haldane.	1834, Robert Lees.	1872, W. A. P. Sanderson.
1797, James Sime.	1835, Thomas Davidson.	1873, Walter Cochrane.
1798, Andrew Young.	1836, George Lees.	1874, William Laidlaw.
1799, James Johnstone.	1837, Henry Ballantyne.	1875, James Mitchell.
1800, James Roberts.	1838, Alex. Sanderson.	1876, Andrew Brown.
1801, George Murray.	1839, Robert Gill, jun.	1877, Robert Lees.
1802, John Roberts.	1840, Adam Paterson.	1878, James Sanderson.
1803, John Mercer.	1841, William Paterson.	1879, Alex. L. Brown.
1804, George Paterson.	1842, George Bathgate.	1880, James Sanderson.
1805, Thomas Mercer.	1843, William Waddell.	1881, George P. Dickson.
1806, David Thomson.	1844, Henry Monteith.	1882, James R. Brown.
1807, Thomas Gill.	1845, John Sibbald.	1883, Walter Shaw.
1808, George Mercer.	1846, Thos. Clapperton.	1884, Geo. McDougall.
1809, John Lees.	1847, John Roberts.	1885, James Brown.
1810, William Brown.	1848, Andrew Watson.	1886, James Dickson.
1811, William Roberts.	1849, Francis Inglis.	1887, Gideon Brown.
1812, Adam Dobson.	1850, James Sime.	1888, Thomas Ovens.
1813, James Bathgate.	1851, Arthur Dickson.	1889, W. Rodger.
1814, Robert Gill, jun.	1852, Peter Sanderson.	1890, James Dorward.
1815, Robert Walker.	1853, A. L. Cochrane.	1891, W. Roberts.
1816, George Chisholm.	1854, Richard Watson.	1892, Anderson Dickson.
1817, John Roberts, jun.	1855, Hugh Roberts.	1893, George D. Gibson.
1818, William Dobson.	1856, Wm. Sanderson.	1894, A. J. Sanderson.
1819, Alex. Sanderson.	1857, William Brown.	1895, Robert Gordon.
1820, Robert Walker.	1858, William Roberts.	1895, John A. Cochrane.
1821, Joshua Wood.	1859, R. Sanderson.	
1822, John Fairgrieve.	1860, James Dalziel.	

In surveying the progress of the woollen trade in Galashiels for the past century, striking evidence is afforded of the changes that have occurred since the time when thirty narrow handlooms comprised the extent of its productive power. The old appliances and machinery have disappeared, and their places are taken by others which produce better goods at less cost. Notwithstanding the hardships suffered in the period of transition, it is at once a necessity and a register of our civilisation that newer and better methods should replace obsolete and older ones. As has been demonstrated in the history of the staple trade of the town, natural forces have been substituted for human hands, and the old methods practised by a preceding generation are known no more. However much the alteration may affect the interests of those concerned, the law that brings about such changes is stronger than human will, and, be the craft what it may, it must give place to methods and systems in accordance with the requirements or necessities of the age.

Comparing the past with the present, wonderful has been the progress of the woollen trade of the town since the time when Sir Patrick Lindsay recorded that

“At Galashiels are made a few Kerseys called ‘Galashiels Greys,’ and were their wool better scribbled, their goods more milled and better finished, they might serve in place of the lowest priced Yorkshires for country wear to ordinary people and day labourers.”

Woollen and worsted goods of the highest degree of excellence are now produced, and while the necessities of “ordinary people and day labourers” are not overlooked, the requirements of those “who wear soft clothing and are in kings’ houses” are successfully met.





DYERS' FLAG.

## CHAPTER XVI.

### THE DYERS' CORPORATION.

1778 **T**HIS Corporation was instituted in 1778 for the maintenance and preservation of the rights and privileges of the dyeing craft in Galashiels. Only natives of the town who had served an apprenticeship were allowed to pursue the calling, except under restrictions, or by virtue of a money payment.

The charter of the Corporation is now lost, and all that is recorded in the minute book is merely a list of the names of the office-bearers from 1778 to the present day. These officials were elected annually and consisted of a Deacon, two quarter-masters, an officer, a book-keeper, and a standard-bearer.

In the early days of the town, when the annual festival took place, the three Corporations met at the houses of their respective Deacons. Preceded by the boys and girls employed in the various factories, the Weavers' Corporation commenced the procession by marching two deep to the abode of the Deacon of the Manufacturers' Corporation, where they were supplied with a

refreshment consisting of whisky and shortbread. Both Corporations then marched off to join the Dyers, where further refreshments were supplied, and, headed by a band of fiddlers, they perambulated the town with their respective flags and other insignia displayed.

After the march they retired to their respective inns, where they dined, the Manufacturers and Dyers, up to 1825, dining in company; and, so far as the adults were concerned, a ball in the evening finished up the festivities for that occasion. On the following day music was provided in one of the ball-rooms so as to afford opportunity for the boys and girls to indulge in a dance for an hour or two.

The following were the laws and regulations of the Corporation,—

“It is agreed by the incorporated trade of journeymen of Galashiels that none shall teach nor cause to be taught any (except those who either serve a lawful apprenticeship or is a dyer's son) neither here nor anywhere else, and it is also agreed that they shall curb any that is in the place, or shall come into it, to teach any person that does not belong to the business, and that the underwritten and the other laws of this book be put in execution, or if any draw back, they shall be punished as the majority shall agree.

Law 1.—There shall be a general meeting on the last Friday of September annually to elect a new Deacon and other office-bearers for regulating the Corporation.

Law 2.—Any person that learns the art in this town shall have the privilege, while apprentice, for one shilling and sixpence.

Law 3.—Any person that has served his time in this town, but not having received the privilege, may have it for three shillings.

Law 4.—Any person not having served his time may have the privilege for five shillings.

Law 5.—Any person that is out of the craft and wants the privilege shall pay seven shillings and sixpence.

Law 6.—Those wishing to join us at our annual meeting shall pay one shilling.

Law 7.—Any journeyman that comes and works in the town must pay one shilling and sixpence.

Law 8.—Every apprentice or journeyman omitting to have himself brothered, shall pay double for the privilege, if he is not detained against his will.

Law 9.—Every one shall appear at the call of the Deacon, under the penalty of one shilling, or give a satisfactory reason.

Law 10.—There are none to be brothered at the annual meeting except such as are wishing to enter the benevolent institution of Junior Clothiers, or going to leave the place, in such cases the Deacon, with two or more brothers, may administer the privilege.

Law 11.—All money received, either donations, premiums, fines, &c., must be paid into the treasurer of the Institution."

Though this Corporation was intended for journeymen dyers, it does not appear to have been confined to the ranks of the workers. Many of the members of the Manufacturers' Corporation also qualified for membership, as in the list of Deacons the following well-known names occur,—in 1779, Hugh Sanderson; 1783, Richard Lees; 1794, John Lees; 1795, George Roberts; 1807, John Roberts; and in 1815, John Cochrane.

1816 On October 11th, 1816, a Benevolent Institution was inaugurated in connection with the Corporation, the following being its constitution and rules, viz.:—

"We, the subscribers hereof, considering the many advantages which may be derived from us joining together to make up a fund for our mutual relief in time of distress, do, therefore, resolve to form ourselves into a society, under the name of the Benevolent Institution of Junior Clothiers, for the express purpose of affording relief, chiefly to those of our number and craft who may fall into temporary distress, either by sickness or want of employment, or any other casualty; and for carrying this purpose into effect, we bind and oblige ourselves strictly to adhere to the following laws and regulations.

- 1.—There shall be a general meeting annually upon the last Friday of September, to receive new members, examine accounts, choose office-bearers for the following year, and the Deacon to appoint the place of meeting and warn the members by his officer.
- 2.—That a committee be appointed, to consist of a president, clerk and treasurer, two examiners of books and accounts, and two ordinary members and any three of them to be a quorum, and the Deacon of the Junior Corporation always to be president of the committee.
- 3.—That the committee shall have full power to transact all business for the good of the Institution, and to elect any common member or members to fill up any vacancy, and to be accountable to the general meeting for their intromissions.
- 4.—No member shall continue in the same office longer than one year unless re-elected, and none to hold office except members of two years' standing.

- 5.—Entrants must pay two shillings in the name of entry money, and one shilling annually, and to have a badge of the Institution to be worn at the procession.
- 6.—All premiums received shall be put into the fund for the benefit of the society.
- 7.—None can be admitted as a member who is not initiated into the mysteries of the Corporation, except honorary members, who shall be admitted by paying—but shall hold no office.
- 8.—Every member within three miles must attend the general meeting and clear the books, under the penalty of sixpence, and if he does not pay his arrears in two years, he shall forfeit his share of the funds and be excluded from being a member.
- 9.—No gratuity to be given out of the funds before the 10th October, 1818, except that mentioned in Act 12.
- 10.—Any two members may draw upon the treasurer such a sum as may seem meet, by receiving a line signed by the president, without which no money can be paid.
- 11.—None to reproach or revile a brother for having received aid, or speak evil of the society, under the penalty of one shilling and to be publicly censured by the president.
- 12.—Any member that may die without relatives, the Deacon shall be accounted as his eldest brother, and the Institution to pay the funeral charges.
- 13.—The president to be entitled to a pair of gloves from every brother who shall be married in the course of his Deaconship, and if he marry he must pay unto the funds of the Institute 2s 6d.
- 14.—The funds never to be reduced below five pounds.
- 15.—All necessary expenses to be paid out of the funds.
- 16.—Every general meeting may erase any of these rules or insert new ones as they may think proper, only every member who shall suggest any alteration shall deliver in writing his reasons for such, and the advantages that are supposed to result from it, when it shall either be thrown or carried by a majority of votes, but the Institute itself cannot be dissolved but by the consent of four-fifths of its members."

The Committee consisted of John Cochrane, William Wilson, James Syme, jun.; James Brown, Henry Watson, Alexander Kyle, and James Roberts, jun.

At the Michaelmas gathering in 1816 the above laws were read over to the Manufacturers' Corporation. They expressed their approval, and promised a donation of one guinea to the fund. The membership for the first year was thirty, the income amounted to £3, 7s 6d, and the expenditure

- 1818 to 17s 6d, leaving a balance of £2, 10s. A minute, dated 25th September, 1818, states that the above guinea had not been paid. At that date the institution appears to have collapsed, as nothing further is recorded concerning it.
- 1825 From its origin in 1778 up to 1825, the senior and junior Clothiers, or, as they were styled, "The auld and young Dyers," dined in company. At that date the custom was departed from, and about the same time it would appear that so far as any trade purpose was concerned, the Dyers' Corporation commenced to decay. The only item of information which has been thought of sufficient importance to be recorded is contained in a marginal note in the minute book to the effect that "one member had five bairns in two years, three at one time and two at another." On
- 1874 the 7th October, 1874, it was agreed that the properties belonging to the Corporation should be handed over to the custody of the committee of the Junior Clothiers' Benefit Society, and that for the future all initiations should take place at a meeting called in due form.

The Corporation still exists and holds meetings for the admission of members, on payment of a small fee, but it makes no profession of giving any technical benefit in return. The ritual used in the ceremony of brothering is kept secret, but whisperings may be heard of mystic rites and incantations performed upon the helpless neophyte, who, before matriculation, is compelled to engage in an equestrian performance mounted upon an animal not usually associated with that exercise. Some colour is given to the allegation from the fact that in recent years it has been found necessary to add to the staff of office-bearers two functionaries styled "goat keepers."

The social festival is still observed, but its associations are all of the past. The basis of its existence is becoming narrower in proportion as the past is receding, and in all probability time will bring to an end even the very observance, as it has already done the strong and hearty enthusiasm with which it was once characterised.

The following list gives the names of the Deacons from the formation of the Corporation in 1778 till 1825,—

1778, Alexander Small.	1794, John Lees.	1810, Wm. Clapperton.
1779, Hugh Sanderson.	1795, George Roberts.	1811, John Turnbull.
1780, David Grieve.	1796, Wm. Sanderson.	1812, John Walker.
1781, Robert Wilson.	1797, Wm. Douglas.	1813, Robert Paterson.
1782, George Johnstone.	1798, Alex. Finnie.	1814, James Brown.
1783, Richard Lees.	1799, David Thomson.	1815, John Cochrane.
1784, And. Henderson.	1800, George Paterson.	1816, Alexander Kyle.
1785, William Hilson.	1801, John Leitch.	1817, Thomas Wilson.
1786, William Thomson.	1802, And. Clapperton.	1818, Alex. Clapperton.
1787, Peter Thomson.	1803, Char. Hutchinson.	1819, George Sommers.
1788, Adam Wilson.	1804, Thomas Thomson.	1820, Gilbert Dalgliesh.
1789, Adam Young.	1805, John Hutchinson.	1821, Thos. Davidson.
1790, George Haldane.	1806, James Rutherford.	1822, David Knox.
1791, William Wilson.	1807, John Roberts.	1823, Robert Dalgliesh.
1792, Thomas Rae.	1808, James Scott.	1824, John Brown.
1793, John Mercer.	1809, F. McDonald.	1825, James Henderson."

## CHAPTER XVII.

**T**HE following pages contain the history of the various factories in the town from their origin till 1896. In the early years of the Manufacturers' Corporation a number of names of Clothiers occur whose places of business are not referred to. This may be accounted for on the ground that these men confined their operations to weaving and finishing; and, their business being conducted on a small scale, the necessary accommodation was extremely limited. A few of these places still exist and are utilised for various purposes, but the great majority have disappeared.

### BUCKHOLM MILL.

The original portion of this factory was built in 1846 by Henry Sanderson, eldest son of Hugh Sanderson, one of the original owners of Botany Mill, where in 1825 they carried on business under the name of Hugh Sanderson & Son.

The site had been previously occupied by Buckholm Corn Mill, which was destroyed by fire in 1839. The area of ground comprising the original feu lay upon the north side of the Gala, and extended to four acres. It is practically freehold, having been purchased by Mr Sanderson from Mr Pringle of Torwoodlee for £4000; but, in order to preserve the superiority, the sum of one penny Scots per annum is paid. The water power is the finest in the town, having a fall of twenty-eight feet, driving two Leffel turbines of 210 horse-power. It was secured by an agreement between Mr Pringle and Mr Scott of Gala, under which Mr Scott granted the right to the use of the water so far as his interests were affected for an annual payment made by Mr Pringle; one of the conditions being that "the said water be returned to the Gala at a point not less than fifty yards above the source of the Galashiels Mill dam."



**HENRY SANDERSON**

**DAVID THOMSON**

**GEORGE LEES**

**WILLIAM BROWN**

**ANDREW WATSON**





During the period that Buckholm Mill was in the possession of Henry Sanderson it was partially occupied by Andrew & Richard Watson, Thomas & George Clapperton, and others. In 1850 it was acquired by the Messrs Brown, Selkirk, grandsons of William Brown ("The Baron"), who was one of the original owners of Nether Mill, and was a member of the Manufacturers' Corporation in 1800. He acquired the name of "The Baron" on account of his personal appearance and the amount of interest he took in all matters pertaining to the village. He died in 1847, and the name is perpetuated by the Baron's Close, between Paton Street and Albert Place.

About 1819 his sons James and Henry Brown started business on their own account in Galashiels, and in 1835 removed to Selkirk, where they erected the original portion of Ettrick Mills, both brothers being presented with the freedom of that burgh in recognition of the benefit they had conferred upon the local industry.

James Brown died in 1853 and in 1859 the partnership was dissolved, when his sons William, Henry, and Adam acquired Buckholm Mill, where they commenced business under the name of Brown Brothers.

In 1875 Adam Brown retired from the firm, and in 1883 William Brown died, followed two years later by Henry, who lost his life by an accident. Since 1875 the sons of both William and Henry have at various times acquired an interest in the business, and continue to carry on the works under the old name.

Buckholm Mill was the first in the town to be lighted by electricity, the installation having been fitted up by Edison & Co. of New York in 1884. The works have been largely increased at various dates, especially in 1884, when a weaving shed covering between six and seven thousand square yards was erected in Kilnknowe Haugh, an iron bridge connecting the various portions of the works on either side of the Gala.

Alexander Laing Brown, the senior partner, represented the Border Burghs, as a supporter of Mr Gladstone, between 1886 and 1890.

## THE BRISTOL SPINNING MILL.

This building was erected in 1885 by Roberts, Dobson, & Co. It came into the market in 1895 and was acquired by the firm of William Roberts & Co., owners of the Victoria and Waulkmillhead Mills.

## WHEATLANDS MILL.

This factory is one of the latest erections of its kind in the town, having been built in 1866 by Arthur Dickson, on a site called Wheatlands, from which it derives its name.

Mr Dickson was a native of Peebles, where his father, John Dickson, carried on the manufacture of woollen cloth in the Peebles Waulk Mill, becoming a member of the Galashiels Manufacturers' Corporation in 1812. To him belongs the honour of sending from Peebles in 1829 the first consignment of Scotch tweeds to the London market.

In 1834 he removed to Stow and fitted up the Stow mill with new machinery, where he commenced to manufacture Scotch tweeds from foreign wool with great success.

In 1849 Arthur Dickson came to Galashiels and joined the firm of George Paterson & Co., Huddersfield Mill, where he remained till 1857. At that date he resigned connection with that firm and entered into partnership with David Dobbie, from Fifeshire, carrying on business in the Waulkmillhead Mill, the firm being known as Dickson, Dobbie, & Co. This connection was maintained till 1865 when a dissolution took place, and in the following year Mr Dickson erected the original portion of Wheatlands Mill, to which large extensions have been made.

In the earlier years of the municipal history of the town Mr Dickson took a part in civic affairs. He served for some time as a Commissioner of Police, and in that capacity was the first who publicly advocated the necessity of procuring a fire engine for the burgh. He also took a warm interest in the cause of education previous to the passing of the Education Act, and was one of a very small minority in the town who strenuously

advocated the claims of the Caledonian Railway Company when the line between Peebles and Galashiels was first mooted.

Mr Dickson retired from business in 1882, and died in 1890. Since the date of his retirement from active life, the business has been carried on by his sons under the old style of Arthur Dickson & Company.

#### TWEED MILL.

The original portion of this mill was erected in 1852 by Peter and Robert Sanderson, grandsons of Alexander Sanderson (the common ancestor of the firms of P. & R. Sanderson and R. & A. Sanderson & Co.) who manufactured woollen goods at Melrose, and was a member of the Manufacturers' Corporation in 1790. Leaving Melrose, he went to Newcastleton, thence to Innerleithen, where he carried on the manufacture of woollen cloth, assisted by his three sons, Robert, James, and Alexander. The family next removed to Galashiels, and carried on business in Wilderhaugh Mill. Alexander Sanderson died in 1828.

Previous to that event, James Sanderson, the second son, had started business on his own account, and in premises in Bridge Street employed a few hand looms in the production of tartans, which were in great demand at that period. In course of time he rented some machinery, in the first instance at Wilderhaugh, and afterwards at Gala Mill, where he produced yarns for hosiery and other purposes from about 1835 to 1841.

In 1841, in connection with John Sibbald, an Edinburgh merchant, he erected Abbot's Mill, the business being carried on under the name of Sanderson & Sibbald. This continued till 1845, when James Sanderson died, his place in the firm being filled by his son Peter till the partnership was dissolved in 1851. At that date Mr Sibbald acquired the business, and in the following year the two brothers, Peter and Robert Sanderson, erected the first portion of Tweed Mill, where they traded under the style of P. & R. Sanderson.

In 1892 the partnership was dissolved, and the works were acquired by Robert Sanderson, who, in connection with three of

his sons, still carries on the business under the old designation.

At the time when Tweed Mill was erected the available power of the Galashiels Mill dam was fully taken up. In these circumstances it became necessary to rely entirely on steam as the motive power. This was the first factory in the town driven by steam alone. At that date the expense of fuel was considered to be a great barrier to success. One worthy manufacturer, who had removed to another locality in order to obtain sufficient water power, informed the partners "that he could easily afford to keep a carriage and pair on the difference alone between the relative cost of water and their steam power." The plan for this factory was prepared by Randolph, Elder, & Co., of Glasgow, who also fitted up the shafting in the original portion of the works.

#### WAUKRIGG MILL.

Formerly this factory was known as Tweed Place Mill, and was erected in 1866 by James Mitchell, where he carried on the weaving and finishing of woollen cloth for the succeeding twenty-four years under the designation of James Mitchell & Co.

In 1890 it came into the market, and was acquired by James and John Cochrane Dorward, who erected an additional building for the accommodation of carding and spinning machinery. At that time the style was changed to Waukrigg Mill with the view of perpetuating the ancient name of the adjoining locality.

Previous to commencing on their own account, Messrs Dorward had attained to partnerships in the firm of J. & W. Cochrane, Mid Mill, which was founded by their great-grandfather, Adam Cochrane, who was Deacon of the Manufacturers' Corporation in 1788.

#### COMELYBANK MILL.

This factory was erected in 1852 by Andrew & Richard Watson, on a site known as the Brewery Haugh, from its being

cultivated by Mr Haldane, brewer, Low Buckholmside. The designation of the factory was derived from its proximity to a row of houses called Comelybank, which existed in the neighbourhood previous to the formation of the North British Railway.

In 1858 the factory passed into the hands of Thomas Bogue, of Berwick, and for the subsequent twenty-two years was successively occupied by Watson & Bogue, Bogue & Co., and Bogue, Lees, & Co. In 1880 it was acquired by James Sanderson of Woodlands, the sole representative of the firm of Hugh Sanderson & Son.

Mr Sanderson is the great-grandson of Hugh Sanderson, one of the original owners of Botany Mill, who is first mentioned in the history of the trade in 1779 as being at that date Deacon of the Dyers, and again in 1794 when he filled a similar office in the Manufacturers' Corporation. On account of his skill in indigo dyeing he was known in his time as "Blue Hugh."

The firm of Hugh Sanderson & Son originally occupied Wilderhaugh, and subsequently Rosebank and Deanbank Mills. On acquiring Comelybank Mill, they remodelled and enlarged it. Since that time it has been repeatedly extended, special provision being made for the manufacture of fine worsted goods, for the production of which this firm enjoys a reputation of the highest order.

In 1895 electric light was introduced into the works, the installation being capable of affording an ample supply for the recently enlarged mansion house of Woodlands—the first instance of its use in illuminating a dwelling-house in town—the current being conveyed to the house by an underground cable.

In 1896 an iron bridge for the convenience of the employees was thrown over the Gala, to replace the timber structure that had been carried away by the great flood in 1891.

#### GALABANK MILL.

The original portion of this mill was erected in 1818 by Richard Lees, manufacturer, Buckholmside. The site is described as "lying near the foot of the haugh called the Wilder-

haugh, on the north side of the dam, nearly opposite George Mercer's new house." Upon this ground Richard Lees bound himself to erect "a mill and machinery house and waulk mill, forty-two feet long, twenty-eight feet wide, and twenty-five feet high, to be covered with slates, for the purpose of carrying on a woollen manufactory."

Richard Lees was the son of John Lees, manufacturer and dyer at Buckholmside, one of the constitutors of the Manufacturers' Corporation, who acquired a title for a feu in that village from Mr Pringle of Torwoodlee in 1784, upon which he had previously erected a factory and dwelling-house.

John Lees died in 1807, and was succeeded by his son Richard, who in 1793 combined with others in the erection of the original portion of the Mid Mill. In 1779 he procured an extension of his feu at Buckholmside, upon which he erected additional buildings. Possibly for the want of suitable ground for further extension in that locality, he erected Galabank Mill in 1818, and continued to carry on his business at both places. To this circumstance was owing the erection of the celebrated wire bridge over Gala, in order to admit of easy and convenient access to both of the works.

In contemporary documents Richard Lees is described as one of the best-known pioneers of the woollen trade in Galashiels, having in that relation occupied a prominent position in the early years of its history. He appears to have been a public-spirited man of exceptional energy and ability. In 1788 he petitioned the Board of Trustees for Manufactures in Scotland for assistance to enable him to visit England for the purpose of acquiring a better knowledge of the woollen trade, so that any information he might acquire should be utilised for the public benefit. He also seems to have been fully alive to the necessity of procuring machinery of the most improved type, and in several instances introduced such machines into Scotland. In the records of the Board of Trustees his name frequently occurs; he was esteemed by them as a "man of skill" whom they were wont to consult regarding the merits of new or

improved machinery, he having been repeatedly requested to examine and report upon such in various parts of Scotland. Early in the present century he attained a leading position in the Scottish woollen trade, having for a number of years been successful in carrying off first honours in the annual competitions held in Edinburgh for premiums offered by the Board of Trustees.

At a show held in London in 1816 the Right Honourable Lord Somerville of The Pavilion offered a prize consisting of a silver cup for "the best piece of cloth manufactured from Merino and British wool." Richard Lees was the successful competitor, and the cup is now in the possession of his grandson, Richard Lees, Town Clerk of Galashiels.

In addition to the manufacture of cloth, Mr Lees also devoted his attention to agriculture, being for a period tenant of the farm of Hemphaugh. He was a man of taste and varied accomplishments. His garden at Buckholmside was quite a show place, and the famous wire bridge which he erected in its vicinity attracted visitors from all quarters. He also played the bagpipes, to which instrument he was probably attracted by the fact of his possessing the identical pipes which had belonged to "Bonnie Prince Charlie." These pipes were of French manufacture of the time of Louis XIV. They were purchased at the sale of the effects of Cardinal York, brother of Prince Charles Edward Stuart, at his villa of Frascati near Rome, after the Cardinal's decease, and were presented to Mr Lees.

In a manuscript left by Mr Lees reference is made to the history of the pipes, and it is stated, on the authority of the Prince's body servant, that for the last five years of his life the Prince spent the greater part of his time playing on the pipes in question. They are now in the Antiquarian Museum in Edinburgh, having been presented to that institution by Mr Lees's grand-daughter, Mrs Stewart of Sweethope, Inveresk.

There is no portrait of Mr Lees extant, but, from all accounts, he was of a kindly, genial, and hospitable nature, which characteristics are thus referred to by Andrew Scott, the Bowden poet,—



“O my kind friend, whose social jokes,  
And gentle manners frank and free,  
The muse of Bowden thus invokes  
To waft an orra lay to thee.”

Richard Lees died in 1838, and was succeeded by two of his sons, who maintained the credit of the firm for the high quality of their goods, the business being carried on under the style of Robert & George Lees. Although this firm did not initiate the tartan trade, they were the foremost in fostering and developing the production of fine tartans for ladies' use, first as mantles for out-door wear and afterwards as robes for the drawing-room.

In 1837 the feu was extended and a large addition made to the works, in the lower flat of which, previous to the introduction of the machinery, a dinner and ball were held in honour of the accession of Queen Victoria.

Robert Lees retired from business in 1856 and continued to reside at his villa of Leabrae, which was one of the first examples of this class of suburban residences in the immediate neighbourhood of the town. Here he died in 1888 in the eighty-second year of his age.

After the retirement of Robert, the business was carried on by George Lees on his own account until 1865, when, having assumed one of his sons as a partner, the name of the firm was changed to George Lees & Company. Mr Lees died in 1879 at the age of seventy-six, and the business was continued by his sons James and John, who carry on the works under the old name.

#### WILDERBANK MILL.

At first the name of this factory was Wilderhaugh Burn Mill,—evidently derived from a small stream which at one time flowed through the ground attached to it. The original building was sixty-five feet long, twenty-seven feet wide, and sixteen feet high in the side walls. The actual date of its erection is unknown, the earliest known reference to it being in 1780,

when it was occupied by "George Mercer, clothier, Wilderhaugh, near Galashiels."

The terms upon which the site was held were not recorded till the year 1800, when a tack for ninety-nine years was obtained, which contained provision for a renewal at the expiry of that time. In the event of this being refused, the superior was bound to take over the buildings at mutual valuation. The conditions of the tack were akin to those of a similar nature in the town, and are of interest as they afford information regarding the terms imposed upon feuars on the Gala estate a century ago.

The tenant was restricted from using the buildings for any purpose except a woollen factory or dwelling-house, and, in the latter event, an additional sum of fifteen shillings had to be paid. The buildings were to be maintained wind and water tight, and, in common with those using the dam, the cauld at the damhead had to be kept in proper repair, and the dam "redd" or cleaned at their mutual expense. In the event of any portion of the buildings being used as a dwelling-house, the tenants were bound to grind all their corn, malt, and wheat at the Galashiels Mill, paying the ordinary sequels and multures. They were also obliged to purchase all their "meal from the said mill, provided it could be obtained as good and cheap as it could be had in the Galashiels market." The tenant was also restricted from "carrying out of the baronie any dung or fulzie collected in or about the premises under the penalty of ten shillings for each cart load."

At what time George Mercer came to Galashiels cannot now be determined, but previous to that event he tenanted the corn and waulkmill which at one time existed at Elwand foot. He is first mentioned in connection with the woollen trade in 1775, when he received a woad vat from the Board of Trustees, his son George being also taught to dye woad at the expense of the Board. His brother Adam was tenant in the farm of Bow on Gala Water, and in 1791 qualified himself for admission into the Manufacturers' Corporation by subscribing one guinea toward the fund for the erection of the Cloth Hall.

The introduction of carding machinery by George Mercer marked an important epoch in the history of the woollen trade of the town, and required an addition to the existing waulkmill and willow-house. The new building measured twenty-seven feet long, twenty-four feet wide, and sixteen feet high in the side walls, and was the first factory in Scotland in which woollen yarn was produced by machinery impelled by water power.

As the family of George Mercer grew up they were assumed as partners, the firm being carried on as George Mercer & Sons. During the closing years of the last, and the earlier years of the present century, this firm showed much enterprise, being the first in the village to compete for the premiums offered by the Board of Trustees for the best quality of woollen cloth.

In 1811 the factory was destroyed by fire, and, being insured for £600 only, the firm would have collapsed but for the ready help of their friends and neighbours, who subscribed £500, which enabled them to tide over their difficulties. Amongst the local contributors were John Paterson, writer, who subscribed £20; Sanderson & Paterson, builders, £25; John Aimers, millwright, £30; John Hislop, smith, £20; Frank Stevenson, miller, £20; Richard Lees, clothier, £20; William & Simon Bathgate, millwrights, Buckholmside, £10; James Watson, hosier, £20. In addition, sums ranging from £10 to £40 were received from Melrose, Selkirk, Jedburgh, Edinburgh, and London. In 1819 another fire occurred, which once more destroyed the factory. It was again rebuilt, and in the following year George Mercer, jun., died, and was succeeded by his son Thomas, under whose management the firm fell from the leading position it formerly occupied. In 1827 a small piece of additional ground was obtained, upon which was erected a "slated spinning house of two stories."

After the death of Thomas Mercer, which occurred in 1830, the factory came into the hands of trustees, by whom it was rented to the following amongst others, viz. :—Thomas & George Clapperton, Metcalf & Ballantyne, Robert Walker & Sons, and Robert Frier.

In 1862 the building was acquired by William Brown, who demolished the old place and erected a new factory, the old name being changed to Wilderbank, in consequence of the difficulty Englishmen had in pronouncing Wilderhaugh.

The new proprietor was born at Foulshiels, Yarrow, in the same cottage where Mungo Park first saw light, the parents of both residing "but and ben." When a young lad he came to Galashiels as an apprentice to James Sime, senior, in order to learn the woollen manufacture, his indenture in this relation having been already given in the history of the Manufacturers' Corporation. In 1844 Mr Brown started business in Ladhope Mill in connection with Frank Inglis, the firm being known as Inglis & Brown. When Mr Inglis died, his son-in-law, James Dalziel, occupied his place till 1862, when the firm was dissolved. As soon as Wilderbank Mill was ready for occupation, Mr Brown was joined by James Shaw from Glasgow, this connection being maintained for twelve years, when Mr Shaw retired in 1874. The firm is now carried on by Andrew, James R. and Gideon Brown under the style of William Brown & Sons.

Mr Brown, senior, died in 1894 in his eighty-fifth year, being the last survivor of what may be styled the second generation of Galashiels manufacturers.

#### DEANBANK MILL.

This building was erected by Robert Hall, builder, and took its name from the field upon which Kirkbrae now stands, which was known as the Deanpark. Originally it was used for the storage of wool, and for hand-loom weaving, being in this connection occupied by Henry Sanderson, Robert Frier, and others. Latterly, along with a portion of Rosebank Mill, it was occupied by Hugh Sanderson, at whose death in 1863 the tenancy was continued by his son, James, now of Comelybank Mill, who introduced steam power, and had the weaving sheds behind Hall Street erected, where he carried on power-loom weaving, dyeing, and finishing. At the expiry of

his lease in 1882 it was tenanted by Gibson & Lumgair, then just commencing business. Some time afterwards they found it necessary to acquire additional accommodation for looms at the Brewery Buildings, Buckholmside. They also bought Old Ladhope Free Church, which they fitted up and occupied as office and warehouse, till they removed from Galashiels in 1894, to their new factory at Selkirk, called St Mary's Mills.

#### ROSEBANK MILL.

This mill was built in 1805 by David & William Thomson, clothiers in Darling's Haugh, sons of William Thomson, one of the original owners of Botany Mill.

The feu is described as lying on the south side of the Weir Haugh, and opposite the Linn Burn, from which it derived its original name of the Linnburn Mill. In course of time this name fell into desuetude, and it became known as "Thomson's Mill," from the name of the proprietors. After that family ceased to have connection with it, the present name of Rosebank arose, having reference, in all probability, to the profusion of wild roses that grew on the adjacent bank.

In 1814 Messrs Thomson introduced spinning mules, and these were the first machines of the kind in the town. They carried on business till 1825, when the partnership was dissolved, in connection with which a dispute took place regarding the respective shares of the partners, and a lawsuit was entered upon in the Court of Session. Eventually, a settlement was effected by arbitration in 1836, the arbiters being Robert Gill, George Paterson, and James Sime, jun., who found David Thomson entitled to a sum amounting to about £400, on payment of which he assigned his share of the tack, buildings, and machinery to his brother William.

After obtaining possession of the factory, it would appear that William Thomson ceased to carry on the trade, as in 1837 it was occupied by Gilbert Dalgliesh, James Rutherford, and Robert Frier. From that date up to 1879 various firms occupied the premises besides the above, amongst whom were

Henry Monteith, T. & G. Clapperton, Hugh Sanderson, William Brown & Sons, and Kemp & Walker, dyers. In 1845 William Thomson died, and the property was managed by trustees till 1863, when it was sold to John Paterson of Hawick. In 1876 it again came into the market, and was acquired by A. Herbertson & Son, builders.

In 1882 the firm of Keddie, Gordon, & Co. commenced business in Rosebank Mill. Mr Keddie was a native of Jedburgh. Mr Gordon came to Galashiels from Banffshire in 1867. In 1883 a considerable addition was made to the property, which was tenanted by Robertson & Blake, to which they gave the name of Eildon Mill. This firm remained till 1885, when they were succeeded by Boyd, Robertson, & Co., who removed to Selkirk in 1887. The next tenant was Archibald Colquhoun, who occupied the premises till 1894, when he removed to Innerleithen, after which the firm of Keddie, Gordon, & Co. acquired the whole premises. Mr Keddie retired in 1893, and the business is carried on under the old name by Mr Gordon.

#### LADHOPE MILL.

This mill was commenced in 1793 by Robert Walker, "dyster," the site at that time being called the Boglehole Park, belonging to Mr Pringle of Torwoodlee. The feu duty was twelve shillings and sixpence per annum, and the superior undertook to relieve the tenant from all charges for minister's stipend, schoolmaster's salary, and land tax. Buildings at that period must have been erected in a very primitive manner, as the feuar had the privilege of cutting and carting from Buckholm Hill as many "divots" as might be required to cover the "rigging and skews" of the buildings about to be erected.

Buckholmside dam had been formed in 1788 to supply power for a waukmill built by Mr Pringle of Torwoodlee. This mill was tenanted by James Walker, and the dam again joined the Gala at the mouth of Ladhope Burn. It was now lengthened to provide power for the new mill, the owner of which possessed a

right-of-way over the other feus through which it flowed for the purpose of "redding the dam," he being also liable for one third of the expense of maintaining the cauld.

In 1811 the firm of Robert Walker & Sons fell into difficulties, and the mill, machinery, and dwelling-house were sold in behoof of their creditors to George Lindsay of Earlston for the sum of £650.

After Mr Lindsay's death, which occurred in 1834, his trustees disposed of the property to the adjoining feuars, John Sanderson and William Paterson, builders, who a few years afterwards were succeeded by their sons William Sanderson and Adam Paterson.

During the period the mill was in the hands of Mr Lindsay and Sanderson & Paterson, it was rented to a number of small manufacturers whose businesses at that time were not of such magnitude as warranted them erecting buildings for themselves. Among these were Ballantyne & Tait, Inglis & Paterson, Inglis & Brown, Brown & Dalziel, Robert Paterson, Waddel & Turnbull, Thomas Davidson, and Joshua Wood & Sons.

In 1831 a flood carried away the Galashiels dam-head, which at that time occupied a position where Plumtreehall Bridge crosses the Gala. In place of re-erecting it upon the old site it was removed further up the stream to its present position, and built higher than it was formerly. This alteration in height seriously interfered with the quantity of water that flowed down the Buckholmside dam, and, failing redress, Sanderson & Paterson raised an action in the Court of Session for the purpose of having the cauld lowered to its original level. The dispute was at length settled by arbitration in 1856, and the weir was lowered to the extent of three inches.

In consequence of the insufficient supply of water, Sanderson & Paterson in 1836 procured an engine of 25 horse-power,—the first in the town used for driving woollen machinery. It was also in this mill that the first wool-scouring, drying, burring, milling and tentering machines of modern construction were erected, as also scribbling machinery having metal cylinders.

In 1847 William Sanderson purchased the whole property, where he carried on the business of spinning till 1864, when Laidlaw & Fairgrieve became tenants, and were so till 1868, when they acquired the property, carrying on business as yarn spinners under the name of Laidlaw & Fairgrieve.

Mr Laidlaw was a native of Galashiels, and learned his business with the firm of J. & W. Cochrane. When the gold fever broke out, he went to California, and from there to Melbourne, returning to Galashiels in 1864. Mr Fairgrieve is also a native of Galashiels, the name being one of the oldest in the town, and previous to starting business on his own account he had acted as manager to William Sanderson, in Ladhope Mill.

Mr Laidlaw died in 1880, and when the copartnery terminated in 1885 the works were acquired by Mr Fairgrieve, who, in connection with his two sons, Thomas and Andrew, continues to carry on the business under the old name of Laidlaw & Fairgrieve.

#### BOTANY MILL.

This mill was originally known as the Weirhaugh Mill, and was erected in 1797 by Hugh Sanderson, clothier, and Thomas Clapperton, weaver, in Galashiels; James Sime, clothier, in Darling's Haugh; and William Thomson, clothier, in the Channel.

At what date or for what reason the name of the factory was changed to Botany is unknown, but it is probable that the name arose from its being the first mill in the town in which Botany wool was used.

The original erection consisted of a building forty feet long, eighteen feet wide, and eighteen feet high; under its roof these four individuals found accommodation to carry on the fulling and probably the finishing processes of their respective businesses.

The site was held on a ninety-nine years tack, with the



stipulation that the building should not be converted into a flour, barley, or meal mill.

In 1810 William Thomson disposed of his share of the property to the three remaining proprietors, and in 1825 Hugh Sanderson assigned his interest to his son, Henry Sanderson, who carried on business in Botany Mill till he erected Buckholm Mill in 1846.

In 1829 an addition was built, measuring fifty-seven and a half feet long, twenty-eight feet wide, and four stories high, being the first instalment of the large additions that have been made to the works at various dates. In the same year Thomas Clapperton was under the necessity of assigning his share of the buildings to George Craig, the Baron Bailie, for behoof of his creditors. In 1831 this share was acquired by Robert Gill, and thus originated the once well-known firm of Gill, Sime, & Co.

In 1841 Robert Gill assigned his interest in the business to his son Robert, who in 1847 disposed of it to James Sime, who also in 1856 acquired the share belonging to Henry Sanderson, and was thus left sole proprietor. Mr Sime carried on the business in connection with his son William under the style of James Sime & Son till 1866, when he assumed William A. Plummer Sanderson as partner, the firm being afterwards known as Sime, Sanderson, & Co. Mr Sanderson is a native of Dalkeith, having learned the business in the firm of J. & H. Brown & Co., Selkirk. In 1874 Mr Sime died, and the property came into the possession of his son William and Mr Sanderson.

In 1870 a fire occurred in the works which caused damage to the extent of £10,000. In 1879 the firm introduced circular knitting frames for the manufacture of a style of cloth for gentlemen's wear, but, owing to the difficulty of procuring skilled labour, the machines were discarded.

In 1885 William Sime died, and the works were acquired by Mr Sanderson, the sole remaining partner, who, assisted by his two sons, William Plummer Sanderson and George Thomson Sanderson, still continues to carry on the business under the old style of Sime, Sanderson, & Co.

# HISTORY OF GALASHIELS.

## THE WAULKMILLHEAD MILL.

This erection was originally termed the Upper W and occupies the site of one of the three waulkmills which were previous to 1581.

It was built in 1802 by John Roberts (who was one of the constitutors of the Manufacturers' Corporation), George James Johnstone, clothiers, Galashiels; and John Lees, in the Channel. The original building measured forty long, twenty-eight feet wide, and twenty feet high in walls, the tack being for the usual term of ninety-nine years, an annual payment of £4, the tenant being bound by conditions as those already described.

The first change occurred in 1810, when George James Johnstone disposed of his share of the property to George Robert. In 1833 it was transferred to William Roberts.

In 1813 James Johnstone disposed of his share to John Roberts, and in 1831 James Bathgate acquired the share by John Lees, and in 1836 sold it to William Roberts, who became owner of three-fourths of the property. In 1847 the building was nearly destroyed by fire.

In 1857 William Roberts died, and was succeeded by his sons John, Hugh, William and Henry.

In 1815 John Roberts, one of the original owners, who in 1825, assigned his one-fourth share to his son John, dying in 1868, left his interest in the factory to his son Tait Roberts, who in 1885 sold it to Henry Roberts. Henry also acquired the shares belonging to his brothers Hugh and William, both having died in 1879.

In 1891 Henry Roberts died, and in 1896 his trustees gave the factory to his nephews, William H. and Hugh Robert of Hugh Roberts, one of the former proprietors.

## VICTORIA MILL.

The original feu upon which this factory is erected belongs to George Blaikie, formerly proprietor of Langhaugh,

other portions of ground on the south side of the Gala comprised in the Chingle or Channel.

The feu was acquired in 1837 by William Roberts, George Roberts, and Robert Gill, and for the succeeding sixteen years was occupied as a tentering and drying ground. Since that time additional ground has been acquired from Mr Scott of Gala in order to provide for the expansion of the works.

In 1845 George Roberts assigned his interest in the feu to William Roberts, who also in the following year acquired the remaining portion belonging to Robert Gill.

In 1853 the original portion of the works was built by William Roberts, to which he gave the name of Victoria Mill, probably on account of the site having been procured in the year in which Queen Victoria ascended the throne.

In 1857 William Roberts died, and, as has been said, was succeeded by his four sons, John, Hugh, William, and Henry.

In 1863 John Roberts died, and was succeeded by his son John Tait Roberts, who in 1885 sold his interest in the factory to Henry Roberts, who had previously acquired the shares which belonged to his deceased brothers, thus becoming sole proprietor. The business was carried on by Henry Roberts till his death, which occurred in 1891, and afterwards by his trustees till 1896, when the works were acquired by his nephews, William H. and Hugh Roberts, who carry on the business at Victoria Mill, Waulkmillhead, and Bristol Spinning Mill under the style of William Roberts & Company.

#### THE MID MILL.

This factory was originally known as the Mid Waulkmill, and was built in 1793 by David Grieve, Adam Cochrane, and Robert Gill, manufacturers in Galashiels, and Richard Lees, manufacturer, Buckholmside. The original building was forty feet long, twenty-nine feet wide, and sixteen feet high in the side walls. It occupies the site of one of the three ancient waulkmills which were in existence in 1581, but regarding their origin

history is silent. From the terms of the tack it would appear that a building already existed upon the ground, which probably may have been erected by one or other of the Pringles of Galashiels.

The original feu was held on a ninety-nine years' tack, subject to the usual conditions, with the addition that if the building was allowed to stand unoccupied, or the rent was not paid for the space of three years, the lease was to be considered void, and the buildings were to revert to the superior.

The first change occurred in 1810, when David Grieve disposed of his share of the factory to the three remaining proprietors. In 1814 Robert Gill assigned his interest in the building to his son Robert, who in 1831 sold it to John, Walter, and Archibald Cochrane. They had succeeded their father, Adam Cochrane, whose death occurred in 1818. In 1831 the remaining share was acquired from Richard Lees for the sum of £333, 10s, the mill then passed into the hands of the Messrs Cochrane. In 1833 Archibald Cochrane disposed of his share of the buildings to his two brothers. This firm was the first in the town to introduce power-looms and self-acting mules, and was also successful in greatly improving the type of condenser patented by Houldsworth of Glasgow and Wilson of Earlston.

In 1850 Walter Cochrane died, and was succeeded in the first instance by his son, Adam Lees Cochrane, and afterwards by Archibald Cochrane, in conjunction with whom John Cochrane and his son Adam formed the individual members of the firm from 1854 to 1866. At the latter date John Cochrane retired, and his place in the firm was taken by his son, Kenneth Cochrane.

In 1857 the firm had acquired a portion of Netherbarns Haugh, upon which they commenced to erect Netherdale Mill, and in 1866, when the partnership was dissolved, the new factory was acquired by Adam Lees, and Archibald, sons of Walter Cochrane, while Adam and Kenneth, sons of John Cochrane, remained in the Mid Mill.

In 1890 Kenneth Cochrane retired. In the same year the death of Adam Cochrane occurred.

Mr Cochrane was a thoroughly representative Galashiels manufacturer, a genuine Scotsman, possessing a strong individuality of character, and was a prominent member of the Manufacturers' Corporation. It was principally through his exertions that the portraits of Dr Douglas (whose memory he strongly cherished), Sir Walter Scott, and Major Scott of Gala, which adorn the Public Hall, were procured. He was one of the unfortunate shareholders in the City of Glasgow Bank, and was one of the few who satisfied the claims of the liquidators. He took a prominent part in the proceedings of the South of Scotland Chamber of Commerce, as president, member of council, and ordinary member. In the earlier years of the civic history of the town he acted as a Magistrate and Commissioner. His love for the Borderland, its legends, ballads, and literature generally, was unusually strong; he was a genial, warm-hearted man, and had a very exceptional attachment to his native town, and warmly cherished its traditions and the memory of its departed worthies.

Since Mr Cochrane's death the firm has been carried on by two of his sons, John Adam and Gordon Cochrane, under the old designation of J. & W. Cochrane, which has existed since 1818.

During the course of the century that has expired since the works were commenced, the original feu has been largely extended and covered with buildings, the firm having acquired all the available ground in the vicinity. Among the lots that have been thus absorbed, one portion was occupied by John Bathgate in 1797, and afterwards by Thomas and Andrew Clapperton, it having been bought by the Messrs Cochrane in 1831. Another portion was occupied by George Rae, who disposed of it to David Ballantyne, from whom it was acquired in 1844.

#### NETHER MILL.

This mill was built in 1805 by William Brown, James Bathgate, Andrew Clapperton, and William Roberts, clothiers

in Galashiels. The feu is described as "lying in the Sandy Haugh in the vicinity of the site of one of the original waulk-mills." The dimensions of the original building, which still forms part of the works, is forty-three feet long, twenty-eight feet wide, and twenty-two feet high.

In 1810 Andrew Clapperton borrowed £150 upon the security of his share of the property, which was sold by public auction in 1816 for £190, the purchaser being William Brown, who now became the owner of half the factory.

In 1836 William Roberts disposed of his interest in the building to James Bathgate, who in 1843 acquired the remainder from William Brown.

In 1845 the firm of James Bathgate & Son was represented by George and James Bathgate, jun., and in 1866 James disposed of his share to his brother George, who carried on the business under the old name till his death, which occurred in 1868.

At that date the factory, which had been largely extended, was acquired by James Shaw, of the firm of Brown & Shaw, Wilderbank Mill, who occupied it till they dissolved partnership in 1874.

Among the various areas of ground which have been secured at various dates for the extension of the Nether Mill, one portion was formerly occupied by Deacon Walker, who acquired it in 1824. In 1833 it was sold, and, after passing through various hands not connected with the trade, it was purchased by James Shaw in 1869.

When Mr Shaw removed to Nether Mill in 1874 he was joined by his brother Walter, and since that date the firm has traded under the style of James Shaw & Brothers.

#### THE WAVERLEY MILL.

This factory was started in 1886 by J. & W. Roberts for the purpose of weaving and finishing woollen cloth. Previous to that date the premises had been occupied by the firm of Thomas

Aimers & Sons, engineers, who had removed their works to the present site adjoining Huddersfield Mill.

Messrs Roberts learned the business in the Victoria Mill, being the sons of John Roberts, one of the former partners in that factory, who died in 1863.

#### HUDDERSFIELD MILL.

The site of this factory was secured in 1818 by George Paterson, Robert Walker, John Gledhill, and John Fairgrieve. The name was given on account of John Gledhill being a native of Huddersfield, Yorkshire.

George Paterson was a son of the Baron Bailie, Thomas Paterson, who died in 1813. The name is one of the oldest in the town, there being several Patersons mentioned in the rent-roll of the barony in 1656, one of whom is designated "burgis," and others are entered as following the craft of "weafer."

Among those who cherish the traditions connected with the early history of the woollen trade in the town the name of Robert Walker ("The Deacon") is familiar as a household word. He appears to have been somewhat of a character, possessing a considerable amount of native humour, as a number of amusing stories are still extant of which he is the hero. He acquired the name "Deacon" on account of having occupied that position in the Manufacturers' Corporation in 1821, and had the honour of presiding over the Michaelmas gathering at which they entertained Sir Walter Scott.

John Gledhill was among the many pioneers of the woollen trade in the town who failed to make their mark, and was one of the first to succumb during the period of depression which occurred about 1825. At that time he was under the necessity of assigning his share of the mill for behoof of his creditors, and it was acquired by Charles Robson of Berwick. He died in the town at an advanced age, and up to the last had a hard struggle to eke out a scanty livelihood by selling stocking yarn.

The crisis in the trade of the town, which culminated in

1829, proved disastrous to both Deacon Walker and John Fairgrieve. Like many others in the town at that time, they were compelled to grant trust deeds. Their interest in the property was acquired by George Blaikie, farmer, Muirhouse, near Stow.

In 1860 Adam, son of George Paterson, bought Mr Blaikie's share of the mill, and when his father died in 1863, that share also came into his possession. In the following year he purchased the remainder of the property from the trustees of Mr Robson, and became sole proprietor.

In 1876 Adam Paterson died, and was succeeded by his son George, who continues to carry on the business under the style of George Paterson & Company.

#### LANGHAUGH MILL.

This building was erected in 1875 for a spinning mill upon a site on the estate of Langhaugh, by George Currie, George McDougall, and Charles Scott. They were the first in the district to make the loop and knot yarn in mohair, lustres, and silks.

In 1889 the firm started a retail manufacturer's business for woollen cloth, having agents throughout Great Britain and the Colonies.

In 1893 Mr Currie retired, and the business is carried on by the two remaining partners under the designation of Currie, McDougall, & Scott.

#### GALA MILL.

This factory was erected by Robert Sanderson in 1826 on what was described as being up to that time a waste and unprofitable piece of ground, for which an annual sum of £14 was paid; it was held on a ninety-nine years' tack, subject to the usual conditions and limitations. Like nearly all the old tacks in the town, the tenure of the ground was altered to a feu in 1856. The ground and waterfall were rendered available by a diversion



of the Gala from its angular course at the foot of the Scaur to its present channel in the centre of the valley. A new cutting was made both above and below the factory for the extension of the mill dam. The original main building was sixty-five feet long, twenty-eight feet wide, and three stories, or twenty-eight feet high in the side walls. The power for driving the machinery was obtained by means of a water-wheel, eighteen feet in diameter and ten feet wide, with a waterfall of eight feet.

The father of Robert Sanderson was Alexander Sanderson, who was born in Galashiels in 1759. He became a manufacturer of woollen cloth at Melrose, and received a premium in 1786 from the Board of Trustees for Manufactures in Scotland for his productions. He was a member of the Galashiels Manufacturers' Corporation in 1790. In 1798 he removed to Newcastleton, where, for some time, he turned his attention to agricultural pursuits. In 1805 he removed to Innerleithen, and again became engaged in the woollen trade. He finally settled in Galashiels in 1817, and carried on business in Wilderhaugh Mill, under the style of Alexander Sanderson & Son. He died in 1828.

As stated previously, Robert Sanderson, the eldest son, built Gala Mill in 1826. In 1829 he received a grant of £150 from the Board of Trustees in consideration of his having fitted up woollen machinery between these years at a cost of £1034. In 1831 he assumed his youngest brother, Alexander, as a partner, and the firm was known as R. & A. Sanderson. Alexander was well known in his time as an able and enterprising manufacturer, and he died in 1841 at the early age of thirty-two years. His place in the business was taken by William Paterson, second son of William Paterson, builder, Buckholmside, and at that time the style of the firm was altered to its present designation of R. & A. Sanderson & Co. In 1861 Robert Sanderson retired from business, and was succeeded by his two sons, William Alexander, and Robert, and a few years afterwards his youngest son, James, was assumed a partner. Robert Sanderson died in 1865.

William Paterson remained a partner till his death in 1873. In 1894 W. A. Sanderson retired, and the business is now carried on by Robert and James Sanderson, Thomas Hewat, and John Sanderson Hayward. During the period of its present designation, the firm has been awarded medals from the Commissioners of the exhibitions of London, 1851; Paris, 1867; and Paris, 1878.

As already mentioned, an action was raised in the Court of Session by certain riparian proprietors on the Tweed to restrain the manufacturers of Galashiels from discharging the waste water from the processes of manufacture into the Gala. Lengthened litigation ensued, and various attempts were made to remove the grievance by rendering the discharges as innocuous as possible. The process of purification carried out by R. & A. Sanderson & Co. was found to have accomplished that result. In 1883 Alexander Crum Brown, Professor of Chemistry in the University of Edinburgh, in his official capacity as reporter to the Court in the case, stated that the arrangements made by R. & A. Sanderson & Co. at Gala Mill were sufficient to prevent the pollution of the Tweed from their works. On the strength of this report the action was dismissed so far as it was directed against them. The greater part of the other manufacturers in the town adopted the same system of purification, and the action terminated in 1886. A detailed account of this process of purification is embodied in a text-book on the "Dyeing of Textile Fabrics," by J. J. Hummel, F.C.S., Yorkshire College, Leeds.

#### ABBOT'S MILL.

This factory had its origin in 1841, having been built by James Sanderson, clothier, Galashiels, and John Sibbald, merchant, from Edinburgh. Its name is, in all probability, derived from its proximity to Abbotsford. The tack was for ninety-nine years, subject to the usual conditions, with the addition that the feuars were bound to protect the ground against encroachment by the Gala. The original height of the

waterfall was five and a half feet, but, under the lease, the tenants acquired power to increase it to eight feet, provided the interests of mill owners and others were not affected. At that date the mill lade ran into the Gala at a point nearer Abbot's Mill than it does now, and, owing to the want of declivity when the Gala was in flood, the water-wheel was rendered useless by backwater. On the firm taking steps to obviate this difficulty by lengthening the lade so as to discharge into the Gala at a lower level, Mr Bruce of Langlee interfered, and it was only in consideration of a money payment that Sanderson & Sibbald were permitted to carry out the necessary improvement.

James Sanderson was the second son of Alexander Sanderson, whose career has been already given in the history of Tweed and Gala Mills. James carried on business in Abbot's Mill till his death, which occurred in 1845, and was succeeded by his son, Peter Sanderson. In 1851 the partnership was dissolved. Mr Sibbald acquired the property, and continued to carry on the business conjointly with his two sons. Latterly they resigned business and removed to Edinburgh, and in 1875 the mill was sold to Alexander Craig Lang, Selkirk, who occupied it for the next two years, and then disposed of it to Thomas Ovens.

Mr Ovens is a native of the town, and learned his business with his uncles, the Messrs Roberts, in Victoria Mill. After acquiring the property, he carried on the spinning and leased the weaving department of the works for a time to Blenkhorn, Richardson, & Co., Hawick.

In 1884 Mr Ovens assumed as partner George Hunter, from Hawick, the firm now carrying on the woollen trade in all its departments under the name of Ovens, Hunter, & Co.

Mr Hunter has taken an active part in public affairs, being for some time a member of the Town Council and Treasurer to the Corporation. In 1891 the inhabitants of the town and district were much indebted to him for the public-spirited manner in which he successfully resisted the closing of the road leading to the Galafoot Bridge. At that date a flood carried away the

masonry in course of erection, together with about fifty yards of roadway. In order to save the expense of repairing the road, the Melrose District Committee of the County Council of Roxburghshire resolved to close that portion of the road between the end of the proposed bridge and the bridge over the railway, midway between the Melrose road and the Gala. Mr Hunter brought the matter under the notice of the Galashiels Town Council. He also held meetings at various places in the locality at which resolutions were passed protesting against the threatened action, and, at a meeting of the County Council held at Jedburgh, he presented a numerously-signed petition against the closing of the road in question. The decision of the Melrose Committee was confirmed, and statutory notice was given intimating the closing of the road. Meantime the Corporation for the Burgh had ascertained that they were powerless to interfere, owing to the road in dispute being beyond their jurisdiction. Having secured the co-operation of the trustees on the Langlee estate, Mr Hunter appealed to the Sheriff-Substitute, requesting to be heard on the merits of the case. This was refused, and a decision was given in favour of the County Council. An appeal was then made to the Sheriff-Principal, who held that his substitute had acted wrongly in refusing to hear Mr Hunter, and decided to hear the case himself. Against this action of the Sheriff the County Council appealed to the Court of Session, who decided in their favour. The case was then carried to the Inner House, who reversed the former decision, and strongly animadverted upon the conduct of the County Council for their action. This decision led to a mutual arrangement, whereby the County Council agreed to re-open the road, pay £150 towards the cost of the bridge, contribute one-half of the cost of its maintenance, and pay all the judicial expenses of the appellants. Afterwards, at a meeting of the Galashiels Town Council, Mr Hunter was publicly thanked for his spirited and successful efforts on behalf of the community, a sum of £30 being voted as a contribution towards the extra-judicial expenses incurred by him in defence of the public rights.

## NETHERDALE MILL.

This factory, with its tasteful surroundings, is the most imposing structure of its kind in the town, and, from its proximity to the Waverley route of the North British Railway, is eminently calculated to impress travellers with the magnitude and importance of the tweed trade, and the favourable conditions under which those engaged in it pursue their several avocations.

This building was erected by J. & W. Cochrane in 1857, upon a feu of thirty acres situated in Netherbarns Haugh. When the firm was dissolved in 1866, Netherdale Mill was acquired by Adam Lees Cochrane and Archibald Cochrane. Sometime afterwards Walter Cochrane was assumed as a partner, the business being carried on under the designation of Adam L. Cochrane & Brothers. This arrangement continued till 1890, when the firm was converted into a limited liability company, the directors being Adam L. Cochrane, Archibald Cochrane, Walter Cochrane, and William Rodger; John Arnott acting as secretary.

The original portion of the works was built by the firm of R. & A. Stirling at an estimated cost of £10,400. Since that time up to 1896 the firm have expended upon the buildings, machinery, and plant considerably over £100,000.

At the time the factory was commenced the Tweed Road was the only one in its vicinity suitable for vehicular traffic, and was extremely inconvenient. To obviate the difficulty, the firm formed the present road between Abbot's Mill and Netherdale, along the side of what was known as the Dark Heugh, this road being still maintained at their expense. In continuation of this approach, they also formed and maintain the footpath by the side of the Gala between the end of Waverley Place and the Railway Bridge. This route is largely taken advantage of by the community, being in a direct line to the new bridge over the Gala, giving access to the Melrose Road and to the Tweed in the neighbourhood of Abbotsford. A siding has also been constructed, connecting

the mill with the Selkirk branch of the North British Railway.

It was in this factory that the first self-acting mules in the town were erected in 1857, when the building was in course of construction, temporary steam-power then being improvised.

In addition to the foregoing list, which comprises all the factories in the town driven by power, there are a number of other places where the manufacture of cloth is carried on, but on a much smaller scale. These manufacturers purchase their yarn from the spinner, and employ hand looms to convert it into cloth, the goods being finished by others who make a specialty of this branch of the business. The names of these firms are as follows,—The Abbotsford Manufacturing Co., Chisholm & Co., Clark Brothers, G. Anderson, Peter Anderson, W. Ballantyne, A. Christie, C. Foster & Son, James Graham, William Hunter, R. Lees, Thomas McCrirrick, P. McLaren, Thomas Park, R. Scott, and Thomas Wood.

The following firms devote their attention to dyeing wool and yarn for the trade generally, viz.:—

#### VICTORIA DYE WORKS.

These works had their origin at Rosebank Mill about 1858, being owned by James Brownlee. When the Gas Company removed to Gala Foot he acquired their old premises in Paton Street, to which he gave the name of the Victoria Dye Works, where he still continues to carry on the business.

#### PLUMTREE DYEING AND FINISHING WORKS.

The original partners in this firm were John Gray and Andrew Ballantyne, who started business in Nether Mill in 1869. In 1870 they built Plumtree Dye Works, a portion of the building being fitted up as a finishing department. In 1892 the partnership was dissolved in consequence of Mr Ballantyne being

appointed to the office of Burgh Chamberlain, and the business is now carried on by Mr Gray under the old style of Gray, Ballantyne, & Co.

#### GALA DYEING AND FINISHING WORKS.

This firm originated in Rosebank Mill, the work being carried on by Kemp & Walker. In course of time Mr Walker retired, and Mr Messer occupied his place. Gala Dye Works were erected in 1883, and at that time the firm was known as John Kemp & Co. Mr Kemp retired from the business in 1888, since which date it has been carried on by Frank Blair associated with John Pritchard, who retired in 1896, when the business was converted into a limited liability company trading under the designation of Kemp, Blair, & Co., Limited.

The following firms carry on business as wholesale tweed merchants,—

#### J. & R. MORRISON.

This firm started business as tweed merchants in 1857 under the style of Morrison & Stevenson, their warehouse being in a building which stands in the vicinity of the old level crossing at the foot of Langhaugh Brae. In 1861 a change occurred, and at that time the firm of J. & R. Morrison came into existence. In 1879 the present warehouse at the Railway Station was erected.

Robert Morrison died in 1881, and John in 1884. They were succeeded by John S. Morrison, son of John, and F. A. and J. S. Morrison, sons of Robert, who still trade under the old name of J. & R. Morrison.

#### WILLIAM SCHULZE & COMPANY.

Mr Schulze is a native of Brunswick, and served his apprenticeship in connection with the cotton trade in that place.

In 1860 he removed to Hamburg, where he was engaged in the service of a firm in the export trade, and in 1864 he secured a situation as foreign correspondent in the firm of Jaffe Brothers & Co., Dundee.

In 1867, in connection with A. G. Gow and a Hamburg gentleman, he started business in the jute and linen trade. Three years afterwards the Hamburg partner died, and his interest in the business was acquired by the surviving partners. In 1871 the growing tweed trade attracted the attention of the firm, who resolved to establish a business in these goods. With this object, Mr Schulze took up his abode in Galashiels in 1873, while Mr Gow remained in Dundee in charge of the original business.

Premises were secured in Ladhope Vale, and the firm traded under the name of Schulze, Gow, & Co. In 1875 the partnership was dissolved, and in 1890 Mr Schulze erected premises in Park Street, where he carries on an export trade under the style of William Schulze & Company.

#### LOWE, SONS, & COMPANY.

This firm came from Peebles in 1893. Having acquired a site at the north end of the Station Bridge, they erected warehouses fitted up with all the appliances necessary to meet the requirements of the general tweed trade, to which they devote their attention.

#### ROBERTS, SOMERVILLE, & COMPANY.

The advent of this firm marks the latest addition to the tweed trade of the town, it having commenced business in premises situated in Ladhope Vale in 1895. In the following year Mr Somerville retired, leaving the business in the hands of W. J. Roberts, who continues to carry it on under its original designation.



## BUCKHOLMSIDE SKIN AND TAN WORKS.

Though the firm of Sanderson & Murray, Limited, does not, strictly speaking, belong to the woollen industry, yet, from the prominent position it occupies in connection with the trade in the raw material, any history of the staple trade of the town would be incomplete without a brief sketch of its rise and progress.

The firm originated in 1844, the partners being William Sanderson and his brother-in-law, John Murray, who commenced trading as Sanderson & Murray, their warehouse being in Roxburgh Street. Mr Sanderson was a son of John Sanderson, of the firm of Sanderson & Paterson, builders, Buckholmside, and Mr Murray was a native of Old Castles, in Berwickshire.

In 1856 they acquired about an acre of ground in Low Buckholmside, which at one time formed the famous garden belonging to Richard Lees, manufacturer. Here building was commenced on a small scale, and the firm began fellmongering foreign sheep skins. Afterwards they rented premises in Selkirk, where they carried on the process of tanning, but subsequently this branch of the business was transferred to Galashiels, the works having been extended to provide the necessary accommodation. In the course of time the ground became totally covered with buildings, which rose to the height of seven stories on the side next the Gala. There were about 28,000 square yards of flooring within the walls, the various flats being devoted to the processes of soaking, sweating, pulling, leather-dressing and drying, besides the requisite accommodation for storing wool and bark. The works were fitted up with the most improved machinery for the purpose of cleaning and preparing wool for the market. On the 17th April, 1873, when a large addition was nearly ready for occupation, a fire broke out and consumed the entire building. Within the following year it was rebuilt, together with a new chimney stalk rising to the height of one hundred and ninety-five feet six inches, the works being now the largest of the kind in Britain, and capable of working 20,500 sheep skins per week.



PETER SANDERSON

JOHN MURRAY

ADAM COCHRANE

ARTHUR DICKSON

HUGH ROBERTS



When the action was raised against the mill owners in 1879 to prevent the pollution of the Tweed, this firm was also included in the case. To comply with the order of the Court, extensive purification works were erected, which were swept away by a flood in the Gala in 1881. They were rebuilt on the same site, having cost altogether about £5000. On the 14th May, 1882, another fire broke out, and the works were again destroyed. They were re-erected without delay, but modified considerably in regard to height; and, to make up the deficiency in floor space, additional ground was acquired in the immediate neighbourhood, upon which were erected large buildings for the storage of bark and wool.

In 1858 a branch of the business was established at Melbourne, and subsequently other branches were opened in Geelong, Sydney, Dunedin, Wellington, and Napier.

The London firm, under the designation of Sanderson, Murray, & Co., was started in 1870, their business being entirely with the Australian Colonies. In 1882 a separation of interests took place, when the parent firm in Galashiels was formed into a limited liability company, several employees becoming shareholders.

The Colonial wool department is still carried on in Roxburgh Street, the premises having been repeatedly extended to meet the requirements of the trade.

William Sanderson died in 1880, while John Murray continued to take an active part in the business till his death, which occurred in 1892. It was found, in terms of his will, that he had bequeathed £500 to be invested for the benefit of the poor in the town, this being the first and only instance in which a legacy has been left for any public object in Galashiels.

## CHAPTER XVIII.

**R**EFERENCE has already been made to the creation of the Board of Trustees for Manufactures in Scotland, and the object for which it was created. In the following pages will be found condensed extracts from the books belonging to that body relating to their dealings with the weavers, clothiers, dyers, and others belonging to Galashiels.

These are now principally of interest on account of the authentic information they afford regarding the origin and progress of the woollen trade in the town between the years 1729 and 1835, at which date the connection ceased. The money that previously had been devoted to the promotion of the woollen, linen, fishing, and kindred industries was transferred to other objects, which the Board considered equally deserving of encouragement.

The first reference to Galashiels contained in the books of 1728 the Board is dated 12th January, 1728, when it is recorded that,—

“A petition was read from Hugh Scott, Esq. of Galla, for Gallowshiels, praying for the appointment of a stamp master without a salary except such fees as were allowed by Act of Parliament.”

These officials were at that time appointed to various centres in Scotland in connection with the linen industry, which the Board made strenuous efforts to establish in the country. Their duties consisted in measuring, examining, and stamping all the webs of linen manufactured for sale, and attending the fairs and markets within their bounds where such goods were sold, to see that just measure was received by the purchaser. In the event of any goods being found not conform to description, they were confiscated and burned.

In accordance with the desire expressed by Mr Scott, the Board appointed John Donaldson, merchant in Galashiels, to the office, the duties being shortly afterwards increased by the

addition of a similar appointment to Melrose, at a salary of £10 per annum, and the right to use the Selkirkshire stamp for the Melrose goods.

1729 In 1729, with the view of teaching improved methods of preparing wool for spinning, the Board of Trustees decided to plant a woollorter and comber at Galashiels, at a salary of £20 per annum. In due course this functionary, whose name was William Shiells, arrived with the utensils requisite for carrying on his vocation, which the Board provided at a cost of £30.

1731 In order to encourage the linen industry throughout the country generally, premiums amounting to £5 each were offered to "housewives" for the best piece of linen cloth, the yarn to be of their own spinning. While neither the number nor names of winners are recorded, housewives belonging to Galashiels are mentioned for several years as being successful in gaining these prizes.

1739 Hitherto these competitions for premiums were the only references to the linen industry so far as Galashiels was concerned, which was purely of a domestic nature. In this year, however, John Thorburn, weaver, Galashiels, received from the Board the sum of £11, 17s 6d, being the price of two Dutch looms with their tackle. It is also stated that

"The said John Thorburn had been completely instructed by the Dutch weaving master in the perfect and true method of weaving plain linen after the Dutch manner."

The Board imported these master weavers from Holland and settled them at various centres in Scotland for the purpose of instructing the natives in the weaving of linen. Women were also brought from France and established in a similar manner to teach girls the art of spinning.

The next reference to the village is contained in an extract from a letter to the following effect,—

"Lady Galla informed the Board that William Shiells, woollorter and manufacturer at Galashiels, tho' very well skilled in his business, had run into debt, so that all his goods were distressed and poynded, and that he had not attended nor followed his work for some time, and praying that two Williamsons be appointed in his place."

The Board made inquiry into this report, and also into the qualifications of the Williamsons, the result being that Shiells was suspended, and intimation was made to Mr Scott of Gala that either of the Williamsons might be appointed at his discretion.

These Williamsons were evidently the only firm of manufacturers in the village at that date, as they alone received a grant of £30 for carrying on a manufactory of tarred wool. Possibly their attention was wholly occupied with the preparation of the wool, leaving to the weavers the duty of making the homespun yarn into cloth. During the succeeding seven years they received the sum of £115 in grants and premiums on the amount of wool they manufactured, the premiums being at the rate of one shilling per stone.

1747 From some unexplained reason the infant industry suddenly collapsed, William Williamson ceases to be mentioned, and the quantity of wool manufactured fell off in a large degree. In these circumstances it is recorded that

“The Board, observing from the report that James Williamson had only manufactured 25 stones of wool, and his workhouse being in a ruinous condition, thinks he should be struck off the establishment.”

This course had evidently been carried into effect, as no further notice can be found concerning him.

1761 The next reference to Galashiels occurs in 1761, when the Board is found discussing a copy of a letter from the Deacon of the weavers in Jedburgh to the Deacon of the weavers in Galashiels regarding a combination of weavers in the shires of Roxburgh, Berwick, and Selkirk to raise the price for weaving. In regard to this proceeding on the part of the weavers, which in those days was illegal, the Board directed that

“An advertisement be put into the Edinburgh newspapers and scattered through the said three-shires to notify to the country that the Board have been informed of such a combination, and had ordered a prosecution of those who were most active in forming it, and to warn all others from such unjust and illegal covenants.”

In this case the Board contented themselves with issuing the warning; no steps were taken to carry the above threatened prosecution into effect.

1762 At this time John Scott of Gala petitioned the Board for a lint mill to be erected at Galashiels. Consideration of this request was delayed until it should be seen how a new flax machine in course of being fitted up would work. The invention proved a failure, and no further mention is made regarding the establishment of a lint mill. It is alleged that at one time lint was extensively cultivated in the locality, but no ground can be found for the statement. The "Lint" or "Lintie" Burn is said to have derived its name from the practice of steeping flax in it, but, unfortunately for the theory, the burn in question was also termed the "Linn" Burn, so called evidently from the rapidity with which its waters flowed down the hill side. The Board offered premiums to those who grew flax, and on one occasion it is recorded that Mr Scott of Gala had four acres and two roods of land cropped with this plant. Towards the close of last century Dr Douglas stated that the cottagers in the village grew a little flax for domestic purposes, the ground being obtained from the surrounding farmers.

A complement of caulms and reeds to the value of £30 was given in 1762 to the weavers of Galashiels and Melrose, but in what proportion is not recorded.

1764 The weaving of woollen goods must have been growing into some importance in the village, as, with the view of checking fraud upon the purchasers, the Board of Trustees appointed a stamp-master for woollen cloth to be stationed at Galashiels, at a salary of £5 per annum.

1774 In 1774 a petition was presented to the Board of Trustees by Mr Scott of Gala, requesting "some encouragement to the woollen manufacturers at his village of Galashiels." After consideration, the Board agreed to give a woad vat to the person who dyed woad there, also that the sum of £10 should be given to Mr Scott for the purpose of providing premiums to the weavers and spinners, and they further agreed to bear the expense of teaching an apprentice the art of dyeing woad.

1775 Accordingly, early in the following year a dyeing vat, costing £7, os 6d, was presented to George Mercer, and Thomas



Turnbull, Galashiels, received the sum of £5 for instructing George Mercer, jun., in the art of dyeing woad. Reference to this transaction will be found in the report regarding Galashiels, furnished to the Board by David Loch, one of their inspectors, which has been given elsewhere.

1776 At this date a petition from the clothiers of Galashiels was presented to the Board requesting them to erect a house for the purpose of storing their woollen cloth. This request evidently surprised the Board, as they wrote to Mr Scott of Gala requesting information regarding "the nature of the encouragement the clothiers expected," and also stating "that the Board would choose to see some contribution from himself in this matter." No further reference was made regarding the storehouse, but in the following year Mr Scott again made application for £20 for premiums for the next two years, together with "one of the new wheels for spinning wool for his village of Galashiels as a pattern to the clothiers there." This request was granted so far as the money was concerned, and the wheel was promised, provided the secretary was satisfied that it was put into the hands of some one competent to use it.

1780 Mr Scott again applied to the Board for the usual amount for providing premiums, but on this occasion it was remitted to Lord Gardenston to make inquiry regarding the effect produced by the former grants when he went on the ensuing south circuit. The following report was presented to the Board,—

"I found in this village a number of very industrious people—there are between thirty and forty weavers, and above sixty spinners—the people have of late years improved the fineness and fabric of their cloth, and they find a good sale for it. In my opinion the landlord is not so liberal to them as he ought to be upon just considerations of public and private interest. He grants no feus, and for 99 years' leases not renewable he exacts a very high ground rent, for sites of houses and gardens, at the rate of about £40 per acre. I could not discover in my inquiry that he had ever given anything to their industry out of his own pocket. With regard to the £10 allowed for the last two years, the fact is, it was the first year distributed in small sums among the spinners and weavers, and did no good, but for the most part was idly spent. The second year's bounty was more properly bestowed, cards were purchased and given to the best spinners to the extent of £5. The other £5 was given

to the weavers, who contributed a similar sum among themselves, and this fund was well employed in erecting a common dye-house, which has been of real benefit to these tradesmen. I am of opinion that the Board may very properly give the ten pounds, provided the proprietor gives a similar amount, and the tradesmen again raise a fund of five pounds among themselves, and by means of the whole contribution a common ware-room for the safe custody of the goods may be erected, which would prove of great service to this place. But in that case the landlord ought to grant some proper right, at the sight and to the satisfaction of the Board, in favour of the tradesmen, for they have no right to their dye-house."

While the proposed building for storing cloth was not at that time carried into effect, it would appear that the conditions suggested by Lord Gardenston in connection with the premium had been fulfilled, as the sum of £10 was granted.

1783 At this time a petition was presented to the Board from George Mercer, clothier at Wilderhaugh, near Galashiels, praying for some aid "to enable him to complete a waulkmill which he is at present erecting on a new and improved plan." This petition was supported by Mr Scott of Gala and Mr Pringle of Torwoodlee, and the Board allowed the petitioner £20 for the purpose specified.

1784 In the following year another petition was presented by George Mercer, setting forth

"That he intended making a journey through the principal manufacturing towns in England, with the view to observe the various methods practised in the manufacturing of woollen cloth, and to collect such information as might enable him to improve his own manufacture, and those of his neighbourhood, and praying for encouragement from the Board to the extent of £40."

To this request the Board agreed on the condition that they were supplied with full particulars of the journey, and it was referred to the Lord Chief Baron to take the trouble of paying the above sum in such moieties as his lordship should judge proper, and to converse with and lay such injunctions upon the petitioner as he might deem necessary.

Another petition was presented to the Board from Thomas Frier, weaver, Galashiels, setting forth that, in consequence of

having lost a leg, he is under the necessity of learning the business of stocking-making, and praying the Board to allow him a frame. The petition was refused on the ground that the Board considered he could have no use for a frame till such time as he was instructed in the business.

While endeavouring to encourage the woollen industry the Board did not strictly confine their attention to the manufacturing of cloth only, but also offered premiums to farmers all over the country, in order to encourage the growth of wool. Amongst the successful competitors in this district was Thomas Sinton, tenant in Torwoodlee Mains, who was awarded the sum of £10 for the best smeared wool in the shire of Selkirk. On other occasions a similar amount was gained by James Laidlaw of Ashiestiel, John Murray of Elibank, and Robert Laidlaw of the Peel.

1785 The grants offered by the Board for the improvement of machinery and methods of working now commenced to be taken advantage of, and it is to be regretted that the information has to be taken from condensed statements in the minute books of the Board, the original papers having unfortunately been destroyed.

The pioneer of the movement was George Mercer, who, in 1785, made application for the following articles, viz.,—

A drying house, some scribbling machines, a large woad vat upon the plan of those he saw the previous year at Kendal and Leeds, in order to enable him to carry on his manufacture of coarse woollen cloth in a proper and spirited manner. Also an annual allowance for three or four years. The total cost amounted to £40, os 3½d, and the Board allowed him the sum of £30, his request for an annual allowance being refused.

Petition from George Walker for a woad vat, a set of weaving reeds, and some pairs of scribbling machines.—£14 allowed.

Petition from George Clapperton praying for a woad vat and two scribbling machines.—£10 allowed.

Petition from Robert Walker for a woad vat and one scribbling machine.—£10 allowed.

1786 The following year another petition was presented by George Clapperton, requesting the Board to provide him with a drying house and boiler. This request was refused on the ground of his being so recently assisted.

1787 A petition was presented from the woollen weavers of Galashiels requesting the Board to erect a drying house with a suitable stove. Previous to considering this request, the Board sent an official to Galashiels to make inquiry. The report showed that the drying house would be of great service, but that a house open at the sides was to be recommended rather than one altogether closed, the cost of such being estimated at £35. The minister of the parish along with the session were suggested to regulate and manage the proposed house. The Board then communicated with Captain Scott of Gala regarding his terms for a feu, to which he replied, "all that is required of feu duty is a kain hen or one shilling yearly." The Board returned their thanks to Captain Scott for his readiness and disinterested conduct in the matter, but resolved before coming to a decision to make inquiry regarding what sort of houses were erected for a similar purpose in England. Pending their decision, Dr Douglas wrote to the Board informing them that Mr Pringle of Torwoodlee, Mr Pringle of Fernielea, and Bailie Paterson would be associated with him in the management, and requesting the Board to defray the whole cost of the erection. Eventually the Board agreed to give two-thirds, provided the total cost did not exceed £100, the building to be erected at the sight and under the management of Dr Douglas.

Another petition was presented from George Mercer setting forth that he had good reason to believe that he could construct a machine for teasing wool, to go by water, upon an improved plan, and stating his willingness to communicate the benefit of the contrivance without any reward, provided the Board granted their assistance in making the machine. To this application the Board replied by requesting information regarding the probable cost, and desiring that a model of the invention be submitted to them. This having been complied with, the opinion of a "man

of skill" was taken regarding it, who considered that a good deal of merit was due to Mr Mercer on account of his invention, but he did not think it would prove successful. In the circumstances the Board decided to allow the petition to lie over for a time.

1788 In 1788 Richard Lees, manufacturer and dyer, Buckholmside, petitioned the Board to grant him an allowance for the purpose of enabling him to visit England with the view of acquiring a more perfect knowledge of all the branches of the woollen manufacture than he had access to in Scotland, and on his return he would communicate to the other manufacturers such improvements as he might be able to observe during his journey.—£20 allowed.

Petition from James Walker requesting a woad vat, a common vat, a boiler, a stove, and two scribbling machines, recommended by the Duke of Buccleuch.—£20 allowed.

Robert Walker, Darling's Haugh, near Galashiels, also presented a petition desiring aid to enable him to erect a waulk-mill. He was recommended by Dr Monroe, trustee on the estate of Gala, who promised a site on favourable terms. The Board communicated with Dr Douglas, requesting to know if the proposed waulkmill would prove a public benefit. Dr Douglas stated that the mill was primarily intended for private use, but the public would be allowed the use of it on moderate terms, when not otherwise employed. This was not considered satisfactory, and the Board refused the petition.

1789 Petition from George Mercer for aid in defraying the expense of sending his son into England for the purpose of learning to work the spinning jenny.—£20 allowed.

Petition from Robert Walker, Darling's Haugh, for a large dyeing vat, to enable him to dye his cloth in the wool, agreeable to the conditions for the competitions for premiums. This petition was refused on the ground that were the Board to accede to this request they would in all probability be under the necessity of supplying a similar article to every competitor.

1790 A petition was presented from John Roberts in Galashiels, requesting some allowance on account of the expense of sending

his son to England for improvement in his knowledge of woollen manufacture. Dr Douglas supported this petition, and the Board agreed to give £5 in the meantime, and the remainder when the son returned and settled in the country.

Petition from Robert Walker praying for a new machine for spinning, of improved construction, lately invented in England. —£10 allowed.

1791 Petition from George Mercer for aid in erecting a teasing machine of his own invention to go by water; also for assistance to enable him to bring down from England and erect a scribbling machine, also to go by water. Likewise to bring down a person to show the manner of using the machine till the petitioner or his son had learned how to work it, the total cost being estimated at £200. The Board allowed £70 on condition that the machine should be open to the inspection of the Board, or any person whom they might appoint.

Shortly afterwards another petition was presented by George Mercer, requesting the Board to provide him with one of the new spinning jennies. For this purpose he was allowed £10, and the Board suggested that the machine should be made in Galashiels, failing which, in Scotland; and, if this could not be done, he was to order two or three of these machines from Leeds.

At the same time Mercer lodged a claim against the Board for £5, for instructing the son and daughter of Walter Mercer at Lauder Waulkmill in spinning and roving of wool. This claim was allowed.

1792 Another petition was laid before the Board from John Roberts, clothier, which set forth that, owing to bad health, his son had to return from England sooner than he intended, but during his stay of four months he had learned to spin on the jenny, having brought home one of these machines, and requesting that the remainder of the promised allowance should be given, together with some aid toward the erecting of a workhouse for the petitioner and his family.—£5 allowed.

James Walker, blanket manufacturer, presented a petition to the Board, showing that he was at a great loss for want of a

loom of sufficient width, also a spinning machine, a teasing machine, a raising machine, and a set of tenters. Along with this little order he also requested the Board to assist him in erecting a house to contain these articles. This petition was supported by the Duke of Buccleuch and the Earl of Buchan. The Board delayed consideration of his petition on account of certain improvements which they understood were being effected in looms, and in the following year they granted a broad loom, with the recommendation to procure one of the best description; the other items were refused.

Petition from William Thomson, clothier and dyer, for assistance to enable him to visit England for further insight into the woollen manufacture. £10 was allowed, with the promise of a spinning jenny when he returned and settled down in Galashiels.

1793      Petition from George Clapperton requesting aid to enable him to purchase and erect a press of new construction for woollen cloth. The Board granted one half the cost, provided the price of the press did not exceed £40.

1794      Petition from Robert Gill, David Grieve, Adam Cochran, and Richard Lees, manufacturers in Galashiels, setting forth that as they were not able individually to erect machinery to go by water, for teasing, scribbling, and carding wool, they had joined together and erected most substantial machinery for these purposes at great expense, and praying for some allowance. Refused, on the ground that the Board did not give grants towards the erection of buildings.

Petition from Robert Walker, Buckholmside, for a broad loom, a raising machine, and a brusher for finishing blankets, there being no such machines yet in Scotland. The Board granted a similar loom to that obtained by James Walker in 1792.

1795      Dr Douglas at this time presented a petition on behalf of Robert and James Walker, who claimed to be the first and only blanket manufacturers in Galashiels, requesting assistance to help them to procure twining and warping machines for Robert, and raising and brushing machines for James, to enable

him to finish his blankets like those made in Wiltshire. The total cost of the machines was stated to amount to £50, and the Board granted £42.

- 1796 Petition presented to the Board from the Weavers' Corporation praying for an assortment of reeds and caulms to cost £30. The Board allowed £20, and Dr Douglas was instructed to see that the members of the Weavers' Corporation benefited equally.

A petition was presented by Richard Lees, manufacturer of worsted stuffs at Buckholmside, requesting assistance to enable him to procure a press with strong screws, &c., like those used in England for giving the finishing gloss to worsted stuffs for gowns, petticoats, window curtains, &c., of which goods he is the only manufacturer in this country.—£25 allowed.

- 1797 Another petition was presented by Richard Lees, stating that the press he had erected cost £74 and requesting a further allowance.—£15 allowed.

- 1800 Petition from Murray & Finnie, woollen manufacturers in Galashiels, requesting a woad vat, boiler, and press. The Board refused on the ground that they saw nothing in the case to enable them to comply with their request.

- 1801 Petition from the Clothiers' Corporation requesting the Board to allow a small sum in order to defray the expense of sending James Dalglish, gardener, to England, for the purpose of learning to cultivate and prepare woad for dyeing, in order, on his return, to instruct others how to raise that useful plant.—£10 allowed.

A petition from George Mercer set forth that he had been at great expense in bringing machinery from England, and requesting assistance to enable him to erect a drying house to complete his operations.—£30 allowed.

- 1802 Petition from James Melrose, smith in Galashiels, requesting some pecuniary assistance on account of his making and improving machinery for the woollen manufacture. The Board placed £10 in the hands of Dr Douglas to be given to Melrose in instalments to enable him to go on improving and perfecting the machinery.



- 1804      Petition from Robert Gill praying for aid in erecting a house to hold his looms and spinning jennies. Refused, with the explanation that it was not customary to give aid toward the erection of buildings.
- 1807      Petition from woollen weavers in Galashiels for fifty fine reeds to cost about ten shillings each.—£21 allowed.
- Petition from Richard Lees, setting forth that he had erected a gig mill, or raising machine for flannel and cloth, which could perform as much work in an hour and a half as two men could accomplish in a day by the ordinary method, it being the first machine of its kind erected in Galashiels, and requested assistance.—£20 allowed.
- 1809      Petition from Joshua Wood, Galashiels, stating that he had recently begun the manufacture of blankets, and had provided the necessary apparatus with the exception of tenters, which would cost £26, and requesting the Board to aid him to that extent.—£15 allowed.
- 1811      Richard Lees petitioned the Board for assistance in defraying the expense of a machine which he had procured from England, for the purpose of working by water-power the shears employed in cropping woollen cloth, by which a man and a boy could direct four or six pairs, each of which if wrought by hand required one man. This machine was the first of its kind in Scotland, and cost £45, besides a further outlay of £96 would be required to erect a new water-wheel.—£45 allowed.
- 1813      Petition from George Mercer & Son for aid to rebuild their manufacturing house, and more particularly to replace the machinery, which they had the misfortune to lose by an accidental fire, while the premises were insured for only £600. The Board refused this petition, and declared that they considered the conduct of manufacturers who neglected to insure their property fully was quite unjustifiable.
- 1815      Petition from William and David Thomson for assistance in erecting new and improved machinery costing £726.—£100 allowed.
- 1816      Petition from Richard Lees praying for aid to enable him

to erect a new machine not yet known in Scotland, called a shearing machine or "perpetual backer," which is used in connection with the cropping machine, and will cost £40.—£20 allowed.

Petition from William and Simon Bathgate, millwrights in Galashiels, requesting a reward for constructing a machine to go by water upon such a simple plan that yarn can be spun at one half the expense of that spun by the hand jenny. Refused on the ground that the Board considered the alleged invention was merely an adaptation of the process of spinning cotton.

Petition from Walter Mercer, Galashiels, stating that after much pains he had constructed a machine for doubling, twisting, and reeling woollen yarn at one and the same time, and requesting aid to assist him in defraying the expense.—£21 allowed. Mr Richard Lees was requested to report on this invention.

1818 Petition from James Leitch, wheelwright, requesting a premium on account of having made an improvement on the two-handed spinning wheel. After examination it was reported to the Board that the improvement was of value, as it had put it out of the power of the spinner to spin one thread hard and another soft.—£5, 5s allowed.

1819 Petition from the manufacturers of Galashiels praying for an allowance towards the erection of a drying house for the common benefit to cost £200. Certificates were read from Walter Scott, Abbotsford, and Dr Douglas.—£50 allowed.

1820 Petition from James Paterson, Galashiels, praying for a reward on account of having introduced into Scotland from America a cropping machine for woollen cloth, easier kept and cheaper than the English machine used for the same purpose. To bring the machine from America and erect it in Galashiels cost £47, 10s, but similar machines were being constructed for £16. Sir William Forbes, Sir John Hay, and Mr Innes visited Galashiels and examined the machine, and reported that James Paterson deserved a premium. Certificates were also presented from Sir Walter Scott and Mr Scott of Gala.—£25 allowed.

- 1823      Petition from George Paterson and partners praying for aid towards the payment of a new set of machinery to cost £325.—£50 allowed.

Petition from James Sime & Co. requesting a grant in aid of the payment of a new set of machines costing £325.—£50 allowed.

- 1825      Petition from Richard Lees praying for aid on account of having erected two sets of machinery costing £600. The Board, considering that some of this machinery had been erected in 1815, allowed the maximum grant of £70.

- 1827      Petition from Thomas Mercer, Galashiels, setting forth that at various times he had erected two sets of machinery, one being used for carding and spinning coloured wool, and the other for white. The machinery was new and improved, and on a larger scale than any yet introduced into Galashiels. Also a loom for weaving broadcloth had been procured, the first of its kind erected in the town, the total cost of which machinery had been £859.—£100 allowed.

Petition from John Hislop, blacksmith and machine maker, stating that he had devoted his time and attention for twenty years to the making and improving of the machinery required for the woollen manufacture, and had been fortunate enough to effect a variety of improvements thereon, to the great convenience and benefit of all the manufacturers of Galashiels and other places, and that his recent improvement of the American machine for cropping or cutting the pile of cloth had met with the greatest approbation, and had been commissioned even by several manufacturers in Yorkshire, and praying for some encouragement. A certificate was also read from the principal manufacturers in Galashiels, bearing testimony to his very superior skill and the many important and valuable improvements in machinery made by him. Before coming to a decision; the Board wrote to Kendal and Leeds, asking information regarding the improved cropper. A reply from Leeds stated that it was merely an infringement of an English patent, while that from Kendal held it to be a superior machine of its kind

to anything in use. The Board, considering the opinions expressed regarding the machine by the Galashiels manufacturers coincided with the report from Kendal, granted £50.

- 1829      Petition from Robert Sanderson, Galashiels, showing that he had erected two complete sets of machines, consisting of two double scribblers, two double carders, two spinning billys, a waulkmill, water-wheel, and gig for dressing cloth, at a cost of £1034, and asking some allowance.—£150 allowed.

Petition from Henry Sanderson, Galashiels, requesting aid to erect a "Lewis" or cropping machine, a broad raising machine with the latest improvements, broad looms, a mule jenny with 168 spindles, a broad brushing machine on the newest principle, the whole estimated to cost £180. Allowed £36, but on account of the above machinery being procured for £145, the grant was restricted to £29.

Petition from George Paterson requesting an allowance on account of having erected new and fine machinery.—£50 allowed.

- 1830      Petition from William Kemp, turner in Galashiels, for improvements in machinery for cutting wheels &c.—£15 allowed.

Petition from Richard Lees on behalf of the manufacturers of Galashiels, setting forth that they were deficient in the knowledge of dyeing fancy colours, such as browns, olives, &c., as well as in the dressing and finishing of the cloth, and that he is desirous, for the general benefit, to visit Yorkshire with the view of learning the improved methods, to put them in practice in Galashiels, and requested the Board to give a grant in aid of the expenses connected with the proposed expedition. The Board in this case declined to grant any particular sum, but expressed their willingness to leave the question open till Mr Lees returned, when, if it was found that his visit to England had been productive of benefit to the manufacturers generally, they would take into consideration what proportion of the expense they would allow. Payment by results did not coincide with the prevailing ideas at that time, and nothing further is recorded regarding the proposal.

Petition from Thomas Mercer requesting a grant on account of additions to his machinery for carding and spinning, also to

his raising and brushing machinery.—£35 allowed.

Petition from William Gill, Andrew Dickson, John and Robert Inglis, F. & F. Inglis, William Frier, and W. & A. Hislop, manufacturers of blankets and flannels, stating the great disadvantage they labour under from want of proper machinery for finishing these branches of manufacture, and praying the Board to grant machines for raising, brushing, and teaseling, the estimated cost being £105. The Board agreed to allow one half the cost, provided the machines were made publicly useful.

Petition from Robert Ford, blacksmith, requesting the Board to grant him some acknowledgment on account of having effected some improvements in spinning jennies.—£21 allowed.

1831 Petition from woollen weavers in Galashiels, requesting a supply of reeds suitable for looms of double width, such being estimated to cost £60. The Board, considering the meritorious character of the manufacturing community of Galashiels, agreed to allow one half the expense on condition that an equal sum be contributed by the weavers themselves, all disputes regarding their use to be referred to the Bailie and minister.

1832 Petition from George Roberts, jun., setting forth that he is erecting a finer set of carding machines upon a plan entirely new in Scotland, whereby the operation called slubbing is superseded, the wool being at once carried from the carding machine to the jenny.—£100 allowed.

1833 At this time the Board made inquiry regarding the opinions held by the manufacturers of Galashiels in connection with the premiums on woollen cloth and the grants in aid for purchasing machinery. Richard Lees replied on behalf of the manufacturers, stating that in their opinion the premiums were too small compared with the value of the goods required to compete in the various classes, and they suggested that a few pounds added to premiums would prove of more benefit than grants to individuals for the improvement of machinery.

After this declaration on the part of the manufacturers, it would appear that, so far as Galashiels was concerned, no further grants were applied for.

## CHAPTER XIX.

**I**N addition to the grants given by the Board of Trustees for the purpose of assisting the manufacturers of linen and woollen cloth to provide the newest and most improved machinery, they also set apart an annual sum for the purpose of providing premiums to be competed for by the makers of these goods.

Up to 1780 these premiums for woollen goods had been gained principally by manufacturers in Edinburgh, Dalkeith, Musselburgh, and Montrose. In that year, however, George Mercer of Galashiels entered the lists, and in a very few years the manufacturers of that town succeeded so rapidly in improving the quality of their goods that they practically carried off nearly all the prizes.

This pre-eminence was maintained till 1834, when the system came to a close. At that date the report of the judge for woollen goods stated that

“The Board having restricted manufacturers to Scotch wool, not being aware that these cloths cannot be made to compete with the English at the same prices, he regrets to find that the number of entries in this class has nearly all fallen away.”

The Board, however, pursued its own course, and, possibly under the idea that the linen and woollen trades were now able to hold their own, the premiums for these goods were withdrawn altogether. In 1837 it is recorded by another of the judges that

“It is very unpleasant to see that the exhibition of damasks, woollen cloths, blankets, &c., which were wont to come from Dunfermline, Aberdeen, Dundee, Galashiels, Hawick, Kilmarnock, and Glasgow, from which places there is not now a single piece of cloth, which without doubt is occasioned by there being no specific premium held forth as formerly for these manufactures.”

					Price per Yd.		Premium.		
					S.	D.	£	S.	D.
1780	George Mercer, flannel, yard wide,	...	...	...	...	...	10	0	0
1781	George Mercer, „ „ „	...	...	...	...	...	10	0	0
1782	George Mercer, „ „ „	...	...	...	...	...	5	0	0
1783	George Mercer, „ „ „	...	...	...	...	...	5	0	0
1784	No premium offered for flannel.								
1785	George Mercer, dressed cloth, three-quarters wide,	...	...	...	3	0	12	0	0
1785	George Mercer, Hunter's cloth, ...	...	...	...	4	0	12	0	0
	Robert Walker, dressed cloth, ...	...	...	...	2	0	8	0	0
	James Walker, „ „ „	...	...	...	2	0	6	10	0
1787	George Mercer, Hunter's cloth, seven-eighths wide,	...	...	...	4	6	15	0	0
	Robert Walker, jun., dressed cloth, three-quarters wide,	...	...	...	3	0	12	0	0
	George Clapperton, dressed cloth, ...	...	...	...	3	0	4	0	0
	James Walker, dressed cloth, ...	...	...	...	2	0	8	0	0
1788	George Mercer, Hunter's cloth, seven-eighths wide,	...	...	...	4	6	15	0	0
	Robert Walker, jun, „ three-quarters „	...	...	...	3	0	12	0	0
	George Clapperton, „ „ „	...	...	...	3	0	7	0	0
	James Walker, dressed woollen cloth, ...	...	...	...	2	0	8	0	0
	Robert Scott, „ „ „	...	...	...	2	0	5	0	0
1789	George Mercer, Hunter's cloth, seven-eighths wide,	...	...	...	4	6	12	10	0
	Robert Walker, jun., „ „	...	...	...	4	6	12	10	0
	William Johnston, dressed woollen cloth, ...	...	...	...	2	0	8	0	0
	Adam Cochran, „ „ „	...	...	...	2	0	5	0	0
1790	George Mercer, Hunter's cloth, ...	...	...	...	4	6	15	0	0
	Robert Walker, jun., „ „	...	...	...	...	...	10	0	0
	Adam Cochran, dressed woollen cloth, ...	...	...	...	3	0	10	0	0
	David Grieve, „ „ „	...	...	...	3	0	6	0	0
	Robert Gill, „ „ „	...	...	...	2	0	6	0	0
	William Johnston, „ „ „	...	...	...	2	0	6	0	0
	George Clapperton, common white flannel, ...	...	...	...	...	...	6	0	0
	James Walker, baize, yard wide, ...	...	...	...	1	9	6	0	0
1791	David Grieve, Hunter's cloth, ...	...	...	...	5	0	15	0	0
	Robert Walker, „ „	...	...	...	5	0	10	0	0
	William Johnston, dressed woollen cloth, ...	...	...	...	3	0	8	0	0
	Adam Cochran, „ „ „	...	...	...	3	0	8	0	0
	Andrew Henderson, „ „ „	...	...	...	2	0	6	0	0
	Hugh Sanderson, flannel, ..	...	...	...	...	...	6	0	0
	James Walker, blankets, imitation English,	...	...	...	...	...	9	0	0
	Margeret Laidlaw, flannel, imitation Welsh,	...	...	...	...	...	4	0	0

					Price per Yd.		Premium.	
					S.	D.	£	S.
							D.	
1792	Adam Cochran, Hunter's cloth, ...	...	...	...	5	0	10	0 0
	Robert Gill, ,, ,, ...	...	...	...	5	0	10	0 0
	George Clapperton, ,, ,, ...	...	...	...	5	0	10	0 0
	David Grieve, dressed woollen cloth, ...	...	...	...	3	0	7	0 0
	Andrew Henderson, ,, ,, ...	...	...	...	2	0	8	0 0
	James Walker, blankets, imitation English, ...	...	...	...			9	0 0
	Margeret Laidlaw, flannel, imitation Welsh, ...	...	...	...			4	0 0
1793	George Clapperton, Hunter's cloth, ...	...	...	...	5	0	16	0 0
	Robert Gill, ,, ,, ...	...	...	...	5	0	12	0 0
	Adam Cochran, dressed woollen cloth, ...	...	...	...	3	0	13	0 0
	William Thomson, ,, ,, ,, ...	...	...	...	3	0	8	0 0
	Walker & Knox, ,, ,, ,, ...	...	...	...	2	0	10	0 0
	Hugh Sanderson, ,, ,, ,, ...	...	...	...			7	0 0
1794	Adam Cochran, Hunter's cloth, ...	...	...	...	4	6	16	0 0
	George Clapperton, ,, ,, ...	...	...	...	4	6	11	0 0
	David Grieve, dressed woollen cloth, ...	...	...	...	3	0	13	0 0
	Hugh Sanderson, ,, ,, ,, ...	...	...	...	2	0	10	0 0
	Adam Young, ,, ,, ,, ...	...	...	...	2	0	9	0 0
	Robert Walker, ,, ,, ,, ...	...	...	...	2	0	7	0 0
	James Walker, 2 dozen blankets (per pair, 13/), ...	...	...	...			13	0 0
1795	James Sime, striped cloth, ...	...	...	...	5	0	12	0 0
	Hugh Sanderson, Hunter's cloth, ...	...	...	...	4	6	18	0 0
	John Lees & Son, ,, ,, ...	...	...	...	4	6	11	0 0
	William Thomson, dressed woollen cloth, ...	...	...	...	3	0	14	0 0
	William Haldane, ,, ,, ,, ...	...	...	...	3	0	6	0 0
	Robert Walker, ,, ,, ,, ...	...	...	...	2	0	11	0 0
	Andrew Henderson, ,, ,, ,, ...	...	...	...	2	0	7	0 0
	Margeret Laidlaw, flannel, imitation Welsh, ...	...	...	...	1	6	8	0 0
	James Walker, blankets (per pair, 13/), ...	...	...	...			16	0 0
1796	James Sime, striped cloth, ...	...	...	...	5	0	14	0 0
	John Lees & Son, Hunter's cloth, ...	...	...	...	4	9	15	0 0
	Thomas Clapperton, ,, ,, ...	...	...	...	4	9	15	0 0
	William Thomson, dressed woollen cloth, ...	...	...	...	3	3	11	0 0
	Hugh Sanderson, ,, ,, ,, ...	...	...	...	2	3	12	0 0
	Andrew Henderson, ,, ,, ,, ...	...	...	...	2	3	6	0 0
	Margeret Laidlaw, flannel, imitation Welsh, ...	...	...	...	1	6	6	0 0
1797	Thomas Clapperton, Forest cloth, ...	...	...	...	5	6	24	0 0
	Hugh Sanderson, ,, ,, ...	...	...	...	4	6	20	0 0
	James Johnston, dressed woollen cloth, ...	...	...	...	3	3	11	0 0
	James Sime, ,, ,, ,, ...	...	...	...	3	3	11	0 0



					Price per Yd.		Premium.		
					S.	D.	£	S.	D.
1797	Robert Heatlie, dressed woollen cloth,	...			2	3	12	0	0
	Robert Gill, " " "	...			2	3	6	0	0
1798	Hugh Sanderson, Forest cloth,	...			5	6	16	0	0
	T. & A. Clapperton, " "	...			5	6	8	0	0
	James Sime, dressed woollen cloth,	...			4	6	20	0	0
	James Johnstone, " " "	...			3	3	15	0	0
	William Brown, " " "	...			2	3	9	0	0
	Robert Walker, " " "	...			2	3	9	0	0
	Margeret Laidlaw, flannel,	...			1	8	6	0	0
1799	T. & A. Clapperton, Forest cloth,	...			5	0	11	0	0
	James Sime, " " "	...			5	0	13	10	0
	William Thomson, " " "	...			5	0	13	10	0
	Hugh Sanderson, " " "	...			3	0	13	0	0
	Robert Walker, " " "	...			3	0	6	0	0
	William Brown, " " "	...			2	3	10	0	0
	James Johnston, " " "	...			2	3	5	0	0
	Margeret Laidlaw, common white flannel,	...			1	4	8	0	0
1800	George Mercer, Forest cloth,	...			5	6	22	0	0
	James Johnston, " " "	...			4	6	18	0	0
	Hugh Sanderson, " " "	...			4	6	9	0	0
	W. & D. Thomson, " " "	...			4	6	9	0	0
	T. & A. Clapperton, dressed woollen cloth,	...			3	3	13	0	0
	John Roberts, " " "	...			3	3	6	0	0
	William Brown, " " "	...			2	3	10	0	0
	Robert Walker, " " "	...			2	3	5	0	0
	Margeret Laidlaw, for well-made flannel,	...			1	4	12	0	0
1801	George Mercer & Sons, Forest cloth,	...			5	6	22	0	0
	John Lees & Son, " " "	...			5	6	11	0	0
	Hugh Sanderson, " " "	...			4	6	18	0	0
	David Thomson, " " "	...			4	6	9	0	0
	John Lees, jun., " " "	...			3	3	8	0	0
	James Johnston, " " "	...			3	3	6	0	0
	Robert Walker, " " "	...			3	3	5	0	0
	Andrew Clapperton, " " "	...			2	3	10	0	0
	John Roberts, " " "	...			2	3	5	0	0
	William Brown, 10 pieces baize,	...			2	3	10	0	0
	Margeret Laidlaw, flannel,	...			1	8	14	0	0
1802	George Mercer & Sons, Forest cloth,	...			5	6	22	0	0
	George Murray, " " "	...			5	6	11	0	0
	David Thomson, " " "	...			4	6	18	0	0

					Price per Yd.		Premium.		
					S.	D.	£	S.	D.
1802	Andrew Clapperton, dressed woollen cloth, ...				3	3	10	0	0
	Robert Walker, " " "				2	3	10	0	0
	Margeret Laidlaw, flannel, ...				1	8	5	0	0
1803	W. & D. Thomson, Forest cloth, ...				5	6	16	10	0
	George Murray, " " "				5	6	10	0	0
	William Brown, " " "				4	6	18	0	0
	Andrew Clapperton, " " "				4	6	9	0	0
	Hugh Sanderson, " " "				3	3	13	0	0
	John Roberts, jun., & Co., " " "				3	3	6	0	0
1804	Hugh Sanderson, " " "				5	6	22	0	0
	Robert Gill, " " "				5	6	11	0	0
	George Roberts, " " "				4	6	7	0	0
	William Brown, " " "				4	6	7	0	0
	Robert Walker, " " "				3	4	13	0	0
	Joshua Wood, " " "				2	6	10	0	0
	George Murray, " " "				2	6	5	0	0
1805	W. & D. Thomson, " " "				5	6	22	0	0
	Thomas Clapperton, " " "				5	6	5	10	0
	Hugh Sanderson, " " "				5	6	5	10	0
	W. & D. Thomson, " " "				4	6	18	0	0
	Thomas Clapperton, " " "				4	6	9	0	0
	William Brown, " " "				3	4	9	10	0
	George Roberts, " " "				3	4	9	10	0
	Joshua Wood, " " "				2	3	7	10	0
	George Murray, " " "				2	3	7	10	0
	William Brown, duffle or coating, ...				...		12	0	0
	Joshua Wood, flannel, ...				1	8	14	0	0
1806	W. & D. Thomson, Forest cloth, ...				6	6	22	0	0
	George Mercer & Sons, " " "				6	6	11	0	0
	W. & D. Thomson, " " "				5	0	18	0	0
	Adam Dobson, " " "				5	0	9	0	0
	John Gledhill, " " "				3	8	13	0	0
	George Mercer & Sons, duffle, ...				4	7	12	0	0
	William Laing, flannel, ...				...		6	0	0
	Joshua Wood, " " "				...		5	0	0
	Robert Walker & Son, dressed woollen cloth, ...				2	9	10	0	0
1807	W. & D. Thomson, Forest cloth, ...				6	6	11	0	0
	John Gledhill, " " "				5	0	13	10	0
	John Lees, " " "				5	0	13	10	0
	Adam Dobson, " " "				3	8	13	0	0

					Price per Yd.		Premium.	
					S.	D.	£	S. D.
1807	Joshua Wood, Forest cloth,	...	...	...	3	8	6	0 0
	Joshua Wood, „ „	...	...	...	2	9	10	0 0
	Andrew Clapperton, Forest cloth,	...	...	...	2	9	5	0 0
	Robert Walker, baize,	...	...	...	...	...	5	0 0
	William Laing, flannel,	...	...	...	1	8	14	0 0
1808	Joshua Wood, blankets like Wiltshire,	...	...	...	...	...	16	0 0
	W. & D. Thomson, Forest cloth,	...	...	...	6	6	22	0 0
	Thomas Clapperton, „ „	...	...	...	6	6	11	0 0
	Richard Lees, „ „	...	...	...	5	0	18	0 0
	W. & D. Thomson, „ „	...	...	...	5	0	4	10 0
	Robert Walker & Son, „ „	...	...	...	3	8	13	0 0
	Adam Dobson, „ „	...	...	...	3	8	6	0 0
	Hugh Sanderson, „ „	...	...	...	2	9	10	0 0
	William Brown, „ „	...	...	...	2	9	5	0 0
	Richard Lees, duffle,	...	...	...	4	0	10	0 0
	Robert Walker & Son, baize,	...	...	...	2	0	8	0 0
	James Ballantyne, flannel,	...	...	...	1	8	6	0 0
	William Laing, „	...	...	...	1	4	5	0 0
1809	Joshua Wood, blankets, imitation Wiltshire,	...	...	...	...	...	10	0 0
	Richard Lees, Forest cloth,	...	...	...	6	6	16	10 0
	W. & D. Thomson, „	...	...	...	6	6	16	10 0
	Hugh Sanderson, „	...	...	...	6	6	9	0 0
	John Gledhill, „	...	...	...	5	0	18	0 0
	Adam Dobson, „	...	...	...	4	0	9	10 0
	John Gledhill, „	...	...	...	4	0	9	10 0
	Robert Walker, dressed woollen cloth,	...	...	...	2	9	10	0 0
	Joshua Wood, „ „ „	...	...	...	2	9	5	0 0
	Robert Walker & Son, duffle,	...	...	...	4	0	10	0 0
1810	Joshua Wood, blankets, „	...	...	...	...	...	10	0 0
	George Mercer & Son, Forest cloth,	...	...	...	10	6	22	10 0
	Richard Lees, „ „	...	...	...	10	6	10	0 0
	George Mercer & Son, „ „	...	...	...	7	6	16	10 0
	Richard Lees, „ „	...	...	...	7	6	16	10 0
	John Gledhill, „ „	...	...	...	6	0	9	0 0
	John Gledhill, „ „	...	...	...	3	8	13	0 0
	Cook, Haig, & Co., „ „	...	...	...	3	8	5	0 0
	W. Messer & Co., flannel,	...	...	...	...	...	14	0 0
	Joshua Wood, „	...	...	...	...	...	12	0 0
1811	Richard Lees, Forest cloth,	...	...	...	7	6	22	0 0
	George Mercer & Son, „ „	...	...	...	7	6	11	0 0

					Price per Yd.		Premium.	
					S.	D.	£	S. D.
1811	Adam Dobson,	Forest cloth,	...	...	6	0	13	10 0
	John Gledhill,	" "	...	...	6	0	13	10 0
	W. & D. Thomson,	" "	...	...	3	8	13	0 0
	John Gledhill,	" "	...	...	3	8	6	0 0
	Cook, Haig, & Co.,	" "	...	...	2	9	10	0 0
	John Sanderson,	" "	...	...	2	9	5	0 0
	Richard Lees, duffle coating,	...	...	...	2	9	6	0 0
	Joshua Wood, flannel,	...	...	...	3	0	16	0 0
	Walter Messer, "	...	...	...	1	8	14	0 0
	Joshua Wood, "	...	...	...	1	8	12	0 0
1812	Richard Lees, Forest cloth,	...	...	...	9	0	30	0 0
	James Sime, "	" "	...	...	9	0	15	0 0
	Richard Lees, "	" "	...	...	7	6	22	0 0
	George Roberts, "	" "	...	...	7	6	11	0 0
	Henry Sanderson, "	" "	...	...	3	8	10	0 0
	Henry Sanderson, "	" "	...	...	2	9	10	0 0
	Walter Messer, flannel,	...	...	...	1	8	6	0 0
1813	Richard Lees, Forest cloth,	...	...	...	7	6	16	10 0
	George Roberts, "	" "	...	...	7	6	16	10 0
	John Gledhill, "	" "	...	...	6	0	18	0 0
	Henry Sanderson, "	" "	...	...	3	8	9	0 0
	Henry Sanderson, "	" "	...	...	2	9	10	0 0
	Richard Lees, cassimeres,	...	...	...	...	...	7	10 0
	George Roberts, "	...	...	...	...	...	7	10 0
	Walter Messer, flannel,	...	...	...	3	0	4	0 0
	Walter Messer, "	...	...	...	1	8	10	0 0
	James Watson, lambs'-wool stockings,	...	...	...	...	...	3	10 0
1814	Richard Lees, Forest cloth,	...	...	...	7	6	18	0 0
	Richard Lees, cassimeres,	...	...	...	10	6	7	10 0
1815	Richard Lees, Forest cloth,	...	...	...	9	6	22	0 0
	Robert Gill & Son, "	...	...	...	8	0	9	0 0
	Richard Lees, cassimeres,	...	...	...	10	6	15	0 0
1816	George Roberts, Forest cloth,	...	...	...	8	0	18	0 0
	Robert Gill & Son, "	" "	...	...	8	0	9	0 0
	W. & D. Thomson, "	" "	...	...	5	6	6	0 0
	Robert Gill & Son, "	" "	...	...	3	6	9	0 0
	Walter Messer, flannel,	...	...	...	3	0	15	0 0
	W. & D. Thomson, "	...	...	...	3	0	8	0 0
	W. & D. Thomson, "	...	...	...	1	8	14	0 0
	Walter Messer, "	...	...	...	1	8	6	0 0

						Price per Yd.		Premium.	
						s.	d.	£	s. d.
1817	Richard Lees,	Forest cloth,	...	...	...	9	6	15	0 0
	W. & D. Thomson,	„ „	...	...	...	9	6	6	0 0
	Henry Sanderson,	„ „	...	...	...	3	6	9	0 0
	Walter Messer,	flannel,	...	...	...	3	0	15	0 0
	W. & D. Thomson,	„	...	...	...	3	0	8	0 0
	Walter Messer,	„	...	...	...	1	8	14	0 0
1818	George Roberts,	Forest cloth,	...	...	...	8	0	18	0 0
1819	Richard Lees,	Forest cloth,	...	...	...	9	6	20	0 0
	George Roberts,	„ „	...	...	...	8	0	18	0 0
	Thomas Clapperton,	„ „	...	...	...	8	0	9	0 0
	Robert Walker,	„ „	...	...	...	5	6	12	0 0
	J. & H. Brown,	„ „	...	...	...	5	6	6	0 0
	Henry Sanderson,	dressed woollen cloth,	...	...	...	3	6	9	0 0
	Richard Lees,	milled cassimeres,	...	...	...	...	...	15	0 0
	W. & D. Thomson,	flannel,	...	...	...	3	0	10	0 0
	Walter Messer,	„	...	...	...	3	0	10	0 0
	W. & D. Thomson,	„	...	...	...	1	8	10	0 0
	W. & D. Thomson,	„	...	...	...	1	4	8	0 0
1820	Robert Gill & Son,	Forest cloth,	...	...	...	8	0	18	0 0
	Alexander Sanderson,	„ „	...	...	...	8	0	9	0 0
	Robert Walker,	„ „	...	...	...	5	6	12	0 0
	Robert Paterson,	„ „	...	...	...	5	6	6	0 0
	Henry Sanderson,	„ „	...	...	...	5	6	6	0 0
	J. & H. Brown,	„ „	...	...	...	3	6	9	0 0
	Henry Sanderson,	„ „	...	...	...	3	6	5	0 0
	W. & D. Thomson,	flannel,	...	...	...	3	0	15	0 0
	Walter Messer,	„	...	...	...	3	0	8	0 0
	W. & D. Thomson,	„	...	...	...	1	8	6	0 0
	Robert Cairns,	„	...	...	...	1	4	5	0 0
1821	Robert Walker,	Forest cloth,	...	...	...	8	0	18	0 0
	Alexander Sanderson,	„ „	...	...	...	8	0	9	0 0
	Henry Sanderson,	„ „	...	...	...	5	6	12	0 0
	Robert Paterson,	„ „	...	...	...	5	6	6	0 0
	Henry Sanderson,	„ „	...	...	...	3	6	9	0 0
	J. & H. Brown,	„ „	...	...	...	3	6	5	0 0
	W. & D. Thomson,	flannel,	...	...	...	3	0	8	0 0
	„ „ „	„ „ „	...	...	...	1	8	6	0 0
	„ „ „	„ „ „	...	...	...	1	4	5	0 0
	W. & A. Hislop,	lambs'-wool stockings,	...	...	...	...	...	8	0 0

					Price per Yd.		Premium.		
					S.	D.	£	S.	D.
1822	Richard Lees,	Forest cloth,	...	...	8	0	14	0	0
	Robert Walker,	" "	...	...	8	0	14	0	0
	J. & H. Brown,	" "	...	...	8	0	8	0	0
	Richard Lees,	" "	...	...	7	6	20	0	0
	Henry Sanderson,	" "	...	...	7	6	10	0	0
	Robert Paterson,	" "	...	...	4	6	12	0	0
	Thomas M'Gill,	" "	...	...	4	6	6	0	0
	Henry Sanderson,	" "	...	...	3	6	10	0	0
	J. & H. Brown,	" "	...	...	3	6	5	0	0
1823	W. & D. Thomson,	flannel,	...	...	1	4	6	0	0
	James Watson,	stockings,	...	...	...	...	4	0	0
	Robert Walker,	Forest cloth,	...	...	8	0	24	0	0
	Henry Sanderson,	" "	...	...	8	0	12	0	0
	Alex. Sanderson & Son,	" "	...	...	5	6	10	0	0
	Robert Walker,	" "	...	...	5	6	10	0	0
	J. & H. Brown,	" "	...	...	5	6	10	0	0
	Henry Sanderson,	" "	...	...	4	6	10	0	0
	J. & H. Brown,	" "	...	...	4	6	5	0	0
1824	Robert Paterson,	" "	...	...	3	6	12	0	0
	J. & H. Brown,	" "	...	...	3	6	6	0	0
	Francis Inglis, jun.,	flannel,	...	...	...	...	15	0	0
	W. & A. Hislop,	stockings,	...	...	...	...	4	0	0
	Robert Walker,	Forest cloth	...	...	8	0	24	0	0
	Alexander Sanderson & Son,	Forest cloth,	...	...	8	0	12	0	0
	Robert Walker,	" "	...	...	6	6	10	0	0
	Henry Sanderson,	" "	...	...	6	6	10	0	0
	James Roberts,	" "	...	...	3	9	12	0	0
1825	Henry Sanderson,	" "	...	...	3	9	6	0	0
	Francis Inglis, sen.,	flannel,	...	...	3	0	15	0	0
	Francis Inglis, jun.,	" "	...	...	1	4	12	0	0
	Francis Inglis, jun.,	blankets,	...	...	...	...	7	0	0
	J. Watson & Sons,	stockings,	...	...	...	...	8	0	0
	Richard Lees,	Forest cloth,	...	...	7	6	13	10	0
	Robert Walker,	" "	...	...	7	6	13	10	0
	Robert Walker,	" "	...	...	6	0	15	0	0
	W. & D. Thomson,	" "	...	...	6	0	3	10	0
	James Roberts,	" "	...	...	6	0	3	10	0
	Robert Walker,	" "	...	...	4	0	10	0	0
	Francis Inglis, sen.,	blankets,	...	...	...	...	10	0	0
	Francis Inglis, jun.,	flannel,	...	...	3	0	5	0	0

				Price per Yd.		Premium.		
				S.	D.	£	S.	D.
1825	Francis Inglis, sen., flannel,	...	...	1	4	8	0	0
	W. & A. Hislop, stockings,	...	...	...	...	8	0	0
1826	Robert Walker, Forest cloth,	...	...	7	6	12	0	0
	Robert Walker, „ „	...	...	6	0	15	0	0
	Robert Gill & Son, Forest cloth,	...	...	4	0	7	10	0
	Robert Walker, „ „	...	...	4	0	7	10	0
	Francis Inglis, jun., blankets,	...	...	...	...	10	0	0
	Francis Inglis, jun., flannels,	...	...	3	0	10	0	0
	Francis Inglis, jun., „	...	...	1	4	8	0	0
	W. & A. Hislop, stockings,	...	...	...	...	8	0	0
1827	J. & H. Brown, Forest cloth,	...	...	6	6	18	0	0
	Robert Walker, „ „	...	...	6	6	18	0	0
	Robert Gill & Son, „ „	...	...	6	6	18	0	0
	J. & H. Brown, „ „	...	...	6	6	9	0	0
	J. & W. Cochrane, extra premium,	...	...	6	6	9	0	0
	James Roberts, „ „	...	...	6	6	9	0	0
	J. & H. Brown, Forest cloth,	...	...	3	6	10	10	0
	Robert Walker, „ „	...	...	3	6	10	10	0
	Richard Lees, extra premium,	...	...	3	6	5	0	0
	Robert Gill & Son, extra premium,	...	...	3	6	5	0	0
	Henry Sanderson, „ „	...	...	3	6	5	0	0
	Richard Lees, dreadnought,	...	...	5	6	14	0	0
	J. & H. Brown, „ extra premium,	...	...	5	6	7	0	0
	J. & H. Brown, „	...	...	3	6	5	0	0
	John Gledhill, „	...	...	3	6	5	0	0
	Francis Inglis, sen., flannel,	...	...	1	3	10	0	0
	W. & A. Hislop, stockings,	...	...	...	...	8	0	0
1828	Henry Sanderson, broadcloth,	...	...	...	...	20	0	0
	Thomas Mercer, „	...	...	...	...	10	0	0
	Robert Walker, Forest cloth,	...	...	5	6	24	0	0
	J. & H. Brown, „ „	...	...	5	6	4	0	0
	James Rutherford, „ „	...	...	5	6	4	0	0
	Robert Gill & Son, „ „	...	...	5	6	4	0	0
	Robert Walker, „ „	...	...	4	6	9	0	0
	J. & W. Cochrane, „ „	...	...	4	6	9	0	0
	J. & H. Brown, „ „	...	...	4	6	4	10	0
	Robert Gill & Son, „ „	...	...	4	6	4	10	0
	J. & W. Cochrane, „ „	...	...	3	6	14	0	0
	Robert Walker, „ „	...	...	3	6	7	0	0
	Henry Sanderson, dreadnought,	...	...	5	0	7	0	0
	Richard Lees, „ „	...	...	5	0	7	0	0

					Price per Yd.		Premium.	
					S.	D.	£	S. D.
1828	Henry Sanderson, dreadnought, ...	...	...	...	3	6	10	0 0
	Thomas Mercer, cassimeres, ...	...	...	...	6	0	14	0 0
	Francis Inglis, sen., blankets, ...	...	...	...	...	...	10	0 0
	Francis Inglis, jun., flannel, ...	...	...	...	...	...	14	0 0
	George Roberts, jun., ,, ...	...	...	...	...	...	14	0 0
	Francis Inglis, sen., ,, ...	...	...	...	...	...	10	0 0
	George Roberts, jun., ,, ...	...	...	...	...	...	10	0 0
	W. & A. Hislop, stockings, ...	...	...	...	...	...	8	0 0
1829	Richard Lees, Forest cloth, ...	...	...	...	5	6	12	0 0
	J. & W. Cochrane, ,, ,, ...	...	...	...	5	6	10	0 0
	James Hunter, ,, ,, ...	...	...	...	5	6	8	0 0
	James Rutherford, ,, ,, ...	...	...	...	4	6	8	0 0
	J. & W. Cochrane, ,, ,, ...	...	...	...	4	6	8	0 0
	Robert Walker, ,, ,, ...	...	...	...	4	6	8	0 0
	Richard Lees, ,, ,, ...	...	...	...	3	6	7	0 0
	J. & W. Cochrane, ,, ,, ...	...	...	...	3	6	7	0 0
	Robert Walker, ,, ,, ...	...	...	...	3	6	3	10 0
	Robert Gill & Son, ,, ,, ...	...	...	...	3	6	3	10 0
	William Roberts, ,, ,, ...	...	...	...	2	6	10	0 0
	Henry Sanderson, ,, ,, ...	...	...	...	2	6	5	0 0
	Robert Gill & Son, dreadnought, ...	...	...	...	5	0	12	0 0
	Richard Lees, ,, ,, ...	...	...	...	3	6	9	0 0
	Robert Gill & Son, cassimeres, ...	...	...	...	6	0	7	0 0
	Henry Sanderson, broad cloth, extra premium, ...	...	...	...	...	...	7	0 0
	John & Robert Inglis, blankets, ...	...	...	...	...	...	5	0 0
	Henry Sanderson, ,, ,, ...	...	...	...	...	...	5	0 0
	George Roberts, jun., flannel, ..	...	...	...	...	...	15	0 0
	J. & F. Inglis, ,, ,, ...	...	...	...	...	...	15	0 0
	J. & R. Inglis, ,, ,, ...	...	...	...	...	...	10	0 0
	George Roberts, jun., ,, ..	...	...	...	...	...	10	0 0
	W. & A. Hislop, stockings, ...	...	...	...	...	...	8	0 0
1830	Robert & George Lees, Forest cloth, ...	...	...	...	5	6	20	0 0
	J. & H. Brown, ,, ,, ...	...	...	...	5	6	5	0 0
	James Roberts, ,, ,, ...	...	...	...	4	6	12	0 0
	J. & H. Brown, ,, ,, ...	...	...	...	4	6	6	0 0
	Robert & George Lees, ,, ,, ...	...	...	...	3	6	14	0 0
	J. & H. Brown, ,, ,, ...	...	...	...	3	6	3	10 0
	Henry Sanderson, ,, ,, ...	...	...	...	3	6	3	10 0
	William Roberts, ,, ,, ...	...	...	...	2	6	10	0 0
	Robert & George Lees, ,, ,, ...	...	...	...	2	6	5	0 0
	Robert & George Lees, dreadnought, ...	...	...	...	3	6	9	0 0



					Price per Yd.		Premium.		
					S.	D.	£	S.	D.
1830	Andrew Dickson, flannel,	...	...	...	3	6	15	0	0
	Thomas Davidson, „	...	...	...	3	6	15	0	0
The judges considered these flannels to be the finest ever produced in Scotland.									
	George Roberts, flannel,	...	...	...			10	0	0
	George Roberts, „ extra premium,	...	...	...			5	0	0
	Robert Frier, „ „ „	...	...	...			5	0	0
	William Frier, „ „ „	...	...	...			5	0	0
	Francis Inglis, „ „ „	...	...	...			5	0	0
	Andrew Dickson, „ „ „	...	...	...			5	0	0
	George Roberts, „ ... ..	...	...	...	1	3	10	0	0
	John & Robert Inglis „ extra premium,	...	...	...			3	0	0
	Thomas Davidson, „ „ „	...	...	...			3	0	0
	Henry Sanderson, „ „ „	...	...	...			5	0	0
	John & Robert Inglis, blankets, 17s per pair,	...	...	...			10	0	0
	Henry Sanderson, „ 17s „	...	...	...			5	0	0
1831	Robert & George Lees, Forest cloth,	...	...	...	5	6	20	0	0
	J. & W. Cochrane, „ „	...	...	...	5	6	10	0	0
	Robert & George Lees, „ „	...	...	...	4	6	16	0	0
	„ „ „ „	...	...	...	3	0	10	0	0
	„ „ „ „	...	...	...	...	...	8	0	0
	William Roberts, „ „	...	...	...	3	0	5	0	0
	Henry Ballantyne, „ „ extra premium,	...	...	...			2	10	0
	Robert & George Lees, dreadnought,	...	...	...	5	0	12	0	0
	„ „ „	...	...	...	4	0	9	0	0
	„ „ cassimeres,	...	...	...	5	6	7	0	0
	Dickson & Co., flannel, 2 yards wide,	...	...	...	5	8	15	0	0
	Thomas Davidson, flannel, 2 yards wide, extra premium,	...	...	...			10	0	0
	Thomas Davidson, flannel, 1½ yard wide,	...	...	...	4	3	10	0	0
	Dickson & Co., „ 1 „ „	...	...	...	2	8	8	0	0
	Henry Sanderson, „ 1 „ „	...	...	...	2	8	8	0	0
	Robert & George Lees, 2 doz. woollen shawls, 30s each,	...	...	...			8	0	0
	Robert & George Lees, 2 doz. woollen shawls, 15s each,	...	...	...			5	0	0
	Francis Inglis, 12 pairs blankets, 24s per pair,	...	...	...			5	0	0
	Henry Sanderson, 12 pairs „ 17s per pair,	...	...	...			4	0	0
	F. & T. Inglis, 12 pairs „ 17s per pair,	...	...	...			8	0	0
	W. & A. Hislop, 6 doz. pairs men's lambs'-wool stockings,	...	...	...			8	0	0

					Price per Yd.		Premium.	
					S.	D.	£	S. D.
1832	Robert & George Lees, Forest cloth,	...			5	6	20	0 0
	" " "	...			5	6	10	0 0
	" " "	...			4	6	16	0 0
	" " "	...			4	6	8	0 0
	" " "	...			3	0	10	0 0
	Henry Ballantyne, Forest cloth, extra premium,	...					5	0 0
	William Roberts, " " " "	...					5	0 0
	Robert & George Lees, dreadnought,	...			5	0	12	0 0
	Andrew Dickson & Co., flannel,	...			3	0	10	0 0
	Robert & George Lees, 2 doz. soft shawls,	...					8	0 0
1833	Robert & George Lees, Forest cloth,	...			5	6	20	0 0
	J. & H. Brown, " "	...			5	6	10	0 0
	Robert & George Lees, " "	...			4	6	16	0 0
	" " " "	...			4	6	10	0 0
	" " " "	...			4	6	8	0 0
	William Roberts, " "	...			3	6	5	0 0
	J. & W. Cochrane, drab cloth,	...			2	6	8	0 0
	J. & H. Brown, " "	...			2	6	4	0 0
	Robert & George Lees, milled cassimeres,	...					14	0 0
	Henry Sanderson, flannel,	...			3	6	10	0 0
	Robert & George Lees, 2 doz. soft woollen shawls,	...					5	0 0
1834	J. & H. Brown, Forest cloth, Scotch wool,	...			6	6	20	0 0
	Robert Paterson, " " " "	...			4	6	15	0 0
	J. & H. Brown, drab cloth,	...			3	0	7	0 0
	" " " "	...			3	0	5	0 0
	" dreadnought,	...			7	6	10	0 0
	" " "	...			6	0	8	0 0
	" twill stuff,	...					10	0 0
	" Orleans stripe,	...					10	0 0
	" flannel	...					3	0 0
1835	J. & H. Brown, checked trouser stuff,	...					6	0 0

No premiums being offered for woollen goods in 1835, the above exhibit was shown in what was termed the special article class.



#### **SECTION IV.—EDUCATIONAL.**



## CHAPTER I.

### THE PARISH SCHOOL.

THE origin and early history of the progress of education in Galashiels are involved in obscurity. The only available sources of information are confined to casual references contained in the minutes of meetings of the heritors and Kirk Session. In some instances the name of the schoolmaster is only mentioned in connection with his duty as clerk to one or other of these bodies. In all probability the original Parish School would be at Lindean, and would be transferred to Galashiels along with the church.

The first schoolmaster of whom any record exists was George  
1696 Blaikie, the date of his appointment being 16th November, 1696. During his term of office the school met, for a time at least, in the kirk, as the Session is found

“Taking to consideration the great abuse and many prejudices which do happen by the reason of the school being kepped in the Kirk of Gala, did unanimously by vote order it to be held in the schoolhouse, and to continue no longer in the Kirk.”

For what reason a vacancy occurred is not recorded, but on  
1698 the 28th November, 1698, the Session appointed George Adam, schoolmaster, to be their clerk, who was evidently newly elected to the office of schoolmaster.

1706 In 1706 his name appears as a witness to a Seal of Cause granted by Sir James Scott of Gala to the Incorporation of Fleshers. Nothing further is known concerning him, nor for what reason he demitted office; but he was succeeded by James Wilson. In those days the office was poorly remunerated, as Mr Wilson lodged a claim against the Session for some allowance on account of having officiated as precentor at three Sacraments. It is also recorded in the heritors' minutes that,—

"They appoint ten shillings to be paid to James Wilson, late schoolmaster in Galashiels, now in distress with old age and infirmity, for having formerly acted as clerk at several meetings."

1725 On the 23rd of May, 1725, James Blaikie was chosen by the heritors to be schoolmaster; the Kirk Session also appointed him to be their clerk. Little or no improvement was made in the matter of salary, as, after holding office a short time, the minister, the Rev. Henry Davidson, thus wrote to a friend,—

"Mr Blaikie, schoolmaster in this place, is recommended to the school of Inverkeithing, now vacant. If you have any interest with any person concerned in that affair, the employment of it in his favour would be an act of charity to him and his family, the school here being exceedingly low."

The schoolhouse itself was evidently quite in keeping with  
1740 this miserable state of affairs, as on the 18th January, 1740, the heritors visited the schoolhouse, and were convinced that it greatly required a new "theekin'," also a new chimney in connection with the kitchen. Mr Blaikie was appointed to collect the assessment from the various heritors, to defray the cost of the repairs.

1775 No further mention is made of the school till 1775, when it is recorded that there were about one hundred scholars in average attendance. At that date the schoolmaster's salary amounted to £6, 7s 2d annually and a house. No reference is made to the amount drawn as fees.

1781 In 1781 Mr Blaikie died after fifty-six years service, and was succeeded by John Grame from Ayton. During his term of office the school and schoolhouse had fallen into such a ruinous condition that the heritors found it necessary to erect new buildings. Plans were prepared, and, till the new school was ready, the heritors advised Mr Grame to take the scholars into the church, should he think it more beneficial for their health. At that time the salary had been raised to £7, 9s 8d, which was paid by the heritors in the following proportions:—Gala, £4, 1s 10d; Fernielee, £1, 4s 6d; Faldonside, 16s 4d; Middlestead, 17s 10d; Bridgehaugh, 9s 2d. As was customary, Mr Grame also filled the office of Session clerk, but after his

death it was discovered that he had utterly neglected his duty in this respect, not a single meeting of Session having been recorded in the minute book. On investigation, it was also found that no marriages had been registered; the list of births and burials were also very incomplete.

1791 Mr Grame died in 1791, and was succeeded by William Fairbairn from Bowden. In accordance with the desire expressed by a number of the parishioners, he received the appointment on condition that Latin be taught for five years at a fee of four shillings a scholar per quarter. In the event of fewer than twelve scholars taking advantage of this opportunity, he was not bound to continue it. Mr Fairbairn was not a classical scholar, but was acknowledged to be an expert in mathematics. If his pupils could read the Bible and Barrie's Collection properly, he considered they were quite competent to read any author in the English language.

At this time the fees were as follows,—Reading, one shilling and sixpence per quarter; writing and arithmetic, sixpence each additional. For all subjects beyond decimal fractions the amount of fees was a matter of agreement between the parent and schoolmaster. The school hours were from seven to nine A.M., and five hours thereafter during the day, from the 1st of April till the autumn vacation, and after harvest up to the end of March, from nine A.M., to continue five hours at the discretion of the master.

1794 In 1794 Mr Fairbairn petitioned the heritors for an addition to his salary. This they refused, but nominated him to be their clerk and collector of poor rates, with the emoluments pertaining thereto. In 1798 his salary was raised to £10, but this advance was limited to three years. In 1803 the salary was again fixed at three hundred and fifty merks, with two bolls of oatmeal, Linlithgow measure, in lieu of a garden. Shortly afterwards another revisal of fees took place, viz., reading, one shilling and sixpence, with writing two shillings and sixpence, and sixpence additional for arithmetic, payable quarterly in advance, in place of the former practice of paying at the end of the term.



1806 In 1806 it was found that the school and schoolhouse, which had been erected in 1781, had become ruinous and necessitated the erection of new buildings. The amount of accommodation for the schoolmaster was confined to a kitchen with a room above it. In 1808 a garden for the use of the schoolmaster was also provided, extending to one fourth of a Scots acre, situated immediately behind the school. It cost £28, 18s 2d, the amount being settled by arbitration.

An incident which occurred at this time is told to the following effect,—One afternoon when the school was dismissed, Mr Fairbairn remarked to one of the boys, “John, tell your mother I am coming along to-morrow afternoon to drink a cup of tea with her.” The next morning he asked the boy if he had delivered his message, to which he replied in the affirmative. “What did your mother say?” was the next query; the boy hung his head and made no response. On the question being repeated, he managed to blurt out, “Ma mother said ‘e was a nasty, fashious body, and she wad far raither no’ be troubled wi’ ‘e.”

1810 In 1810 Mr Fairbairn died, and his son William was appointed interim schoolmaster and parish clerk till the following term of Martinmas. The interim teacher was born in Galashiels on the 8th June, 1792, and when he left the town he betook himself to the study of medicine, and passed the Navy Medical Board in 1812. He subsequently served on board the “Saturn” on the West India station, and afterwards on the “Superb” at the bombardment of Algiers in 1816, being promoted to the position of surgeon of that vessel. On the surrender of Napoleon in the preceding year, Dr Fairbairn had the honour of an introduction to the Emperor, and breakfasted with him, along with the other officers of the “Superb.”

Returning to Edinburgh, he graduated in 1819, and shortly afterwards resigned his appointment in the navy. He became a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in 1833, and was for a lengthened period medical officer to the House of Refuge. He was cousin to William Fairbairn, the eminent Manchester engineer, who for a term attended the Parish School at Gala-

shiels under his uncle, and was also cousin to Sir Peter Fairbairn of Leeds. Mr Fairbairn died in Edinburgh in 1862, aged seventy years.

During the period William Fairbairn officiated as interim schoolmaster, advertisements were inserted in the *Caledonian Mercury*, *Edinburgh Evening Courant*, and *Kelso Mail*, requesting applications for the office. The candidates had to be qualified to teach English, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, mensuration, Latin, French, and church music. A short leet of three was chosen, and, after being examined by the Presbytery, the following report was handed to the heritors,—

“Mr Simpson, Newlands, was by far the best qualified for teaching the languages, but was inferior in the practical parts of mathematics and mensuration. Mr Fyshe, from Linton, with less acquaintance with Latin and French, writes an admirable hand, is well acquainted with the common and higher branches of arithmetic, mensuration, and land surveying, and Mr Paterson from Fans also made a very good appearance in many respects.”

The heritors considered that the qualifications of Mr Fyshe were the most suitable for the class of scholars attending the school, and he was accordingly elected.

The new teacher had not been long installed till he called the attention of the heritors to the fact that the scale of fees charged in the Parish School at Galashiels was lower than that of similar schools in the district. This being found to be the case, they were raised to two shillings and sixpence for reading per quarter, and an additional sixpence each for writing and arithmetic. Owing to the success attendant upon the labours of Mr Fyshe, his house soon proved too small to accommodate the number of boarders that came to reside with him. He therefore made application to the heritors for increased accommodation, and they agreed to add a parlour and barrack-room. The work was executed by Thomson & Stirling at a cost of £154.

Owing to overcrowding, it was also found necessary to enlarge the school, and an addition of fifteen feet was added to its length. Mr Scott of Gala granted for the purpose the stones of the old building called the “Hunter’s Ha’,” which occupied

the site of the proposed extension. The garden was also laid out and several small buildings erected, towards the cost of which Mr Fyshe offered to contribute £20. This offer, however, the heritors declined, on the ground that "they desired to encourage him by every means in their power, and they take this method of expressing their satisfaction with his conduct."

1819 In 1819 the following advertisement appeared in a provincial newspaper, which shows the condition of educational matters in the town at that period,—

"The school of Galashiels was this day examined by a committee of the Presbytery of Selkirk in presence of a great number of the heritors, clergy; ladies and gentlemen of the town and neighbourhood, and also from Edinburgh. The scholars, amounting to upwards of 137, were exercised in their knowledge of English, grammar, spelling, reciting, Latin, Greek, French, British history, antiquities, modern geography, mathematics with their application to mensuration, plain and spherical trigonometry, algebra, mechanics, etc., astronomy and use of the globes, arithmetic, book-keeping, and writing. In all these branches they showed such a proficiency as did great credit to Mr Fyshe, the teacher. The company were gratified by the whole performance, and were fully satisfied that Mr Fyshe is well entitled to the public favour which he has so long enjoyed. Such of the parents and guardians of the children boarded and taught by Mr Fyshe begged to add their recommendation of that gentleman to that of the committee, and expressed the highest satisfaction with the healthful appearance of the children, and their progress in education.—George Thomson, moderator; Robert Douglas, min. of Galashiels; W. Balfour, min., Bowden; John Thomson, min., Maxton; John Cormack, min., Stow; Nicol Milne of Faldonside; James Henderson, min. of the Associate congregation; George Craig.

N.B.—Mr F. can at present accommodate one or two more boarders.—Terms—Thirty guineas per annum, everything included."

In a note attached to the above notice it is stated that

"This seminary is rapidly rising in usefulness and public favour. Many gentlemen in Edinburgh having children boarded and educated in it speak in terms of unqualified approbation of the zeal and ability of the teacher, as well as of his mild and fatherly system of discipline, and his attention to the health and morals of his pupils."

1825 In 1825 Mr Fyshe received an addition to his salary, raising it to £30.



ALEXANDER WILLIAMSON

WILLIAM DUNLOP

ROBERT FYSHE

THOMAS FAIRLEY

THOMAS BAIN



To the older generation of the natives of Galashiels, the Parish School and its teacher, Mr Fyshe, form one of the outstanding memories of their boyhood. The curriculum of the Parish School seventy years ago can compare favourably with that of any institution at the present day, notwithstanding all the advantages that the modern schools possess. But in other directions the change is very marked, and the manners of the teachers and the methods employed in teaching in those days are utterly unknown to the present generation. With the view of affording an idea of the Parish School and school life in Galashiels about sixty years ago, the following extract is taken from a brochure written from personal observation and experience by the late Adam Cochrane, Fernieknowe,—

“Any one who had been a pupil there can remember the barn-like structure. The original part measured 27 feet long by 18 feet wide, the addition being 15 feet long, and the same width as the original. In adding the new part, an arch about ten feet wide was cut through the centre of the old gable, forming a sort of alcove, containing the fireplace, wherein presided the high priest of this temple of learning—Mr Fyshe. The other end was occupied by the assistant, and contained the maps, globes, blackboard, &c. The windows in the south-east side were large, and, as the site for the school had been cut out of a bank, the sills were almost level with the garden. A smaller window occupied the opposite side, in front of which stood a long-legged desk, which contained the tawse, school roll, and other odds and ends. Short double desks stood at right angles to the windowed side for the use of the older pupils, while along the other side ran rows of forms on which the smaller boys sat; while the girls occupied the modern portion. At one period of the school's history there were about seventy boarders, but after the death of Mrs Fyshe the number of these had fallen off, and latterly did not exceed half a score.

Mr Fyshe was dapper in figure, with a clean-shaven fresh coloured face, shaggy eyebrows, and a firm and determined looking mouth. His broadcloth upper garments were well fitting, his head was surmounted with a wig of a reddish brown colour, and his ruffled shirt front was always liberally besprinkled with snuff. From his fob depended a heavy bunch of keys and seals, giving him an air of solid respectability. He spoke the vernacular in all its purity, and, as he strutted, tawse in hand, the length of the school at its opening, his whole appearance, though undersized, appeared to his pupils almost awe-inspiring.

The teaching of the junior classes was carried on while the master was engaged in the making and mending of the quill pens, which were then in universal use. While so engaged, if anything occurred to ruffle his temper, he

would exclaim to the boy whose pen was for the time engaging his attention, 'Where got ye'd, did 'e pu'd oot o' 'er mother's clocker?' ending most likely in dabbing the quill end-wise on the desk and tossing it into the fire. As the day progressed, the senior classes had their turn. The reading lesson was squeaked, grunted, or mumbled, and not much fault was found unless the reader came to a full stop, when down came the tawse, and after the confusion consequent on the changing of a place—trapping it was termed—the work of the class proceeded. Spellings and meanings of words were part of the English lesson, which went on amid the abuse and lashing on the part of the master, and blubbing on the part of the pupils, culminating sometimes in something nearly approaching a riot. 'Lubbert, dunderhead' were the usual epithets shouted by the master, while the tawse raised clouds of dust from the jackets of pupils as tall as himself. He was wont to characterise them as 'only fit to thrash a barn for a wife and six bairns,' and that 'a crap o' turnips might be raised in the stoor they carried on their backs.' Those pupils not engaged in the class, who ought to have been busy preparing their lessons, were busy gambling at odds or evens for cherry stones, trafficking in knives, tops, marbles, &c., or engaged in adjusting the preliminaries of a fistic encounter after school hours. Suddenly a shout of 'Silence!' would be heard, and the tawse were sent whizzing toward a group of boys. If the boy specially wanted was freckled, the order was given, 'Bring up the tawse, spurtled face;' if his hair was red it was 'Gingerbread,' or if his father happened to be a gardener 'Cabbage and leeks' was the epithet applied towards him. The culprit took up the tawse, received his pandies, and things went on as before.

There was also a night school taught by an assistant, but the time was principally devoted to playing practical jokes upon the teacher, a favourite one being to snuff out the candles at a preconcerted signal. There were very few who showed any taste for learning, and respect for the teacher was utterly unknown. Of manners there were none, and in the school no opportunity was given to profit by example. 'I'll learn 'e manners, 'e vulgar brutes,' was addressed to two girls, as he belaboured their heads, who had fallen out over some little matter, one of whom he overheard saying 'A'll tell Fyshe.'

The quarterly collection of fees was one of the incidents that varied the routine. The master, accompanied by one of the boys who acted as clerk, went round receiving the fees, and from the manner his trouser pockets bulged toward the close of the collection, the amount impressed the pupils as being something enormous.

Visitors turned up occasionally and gave a little variety to the daily monotony. Mr Fyshe, being the Session clerk, was entrusted with the duty of dispensing small sums to tramps and others in need. On a rap being heard, the door was opened by the nearest boy, who received the message. 'Somebody wants 'e,' 'Eh! whae is't, is't a man?' 'No,' 'Is't a puir woman?' 'Yes,' 'Tell her to be off about her business!' If the visitor was importunate, sometimes a scene occurred, which to the scholars proved entertaining by way of a change."

Such is a graphic picture of the Parish School in the earlier days of the town's history, and under such conditions those received their education whose names are inseparably connected with the growth and prosperity of Galashiels.

1839 Notwithstanding the hardships attendant upon their school life, in course of time the boys forgot their troubles and came to regard their old master with kindlier feelings. As the outcome of this change, on the 20th April, 1839, about fifty old pupils entertained Mr Fyshe to dinner, which took place in the Commercial Inn. The chair was occupied by Alexander Sanderson, Deacon of the Manufacturers' Corporation for that year. In the course of his remarks he alluded to the excellence of parish schools in general, but particularly to the Galashiels Academy. He concluded a neat and appropriate speech by presenting Mr Fyshe with a service of silver plate of the value of seventy guineas, which bore the following inscription,—

“Presented to Mr Robert Fyshe, parochial schoolmaster of Galashiels, by his former pupils, as a token of their esteem and respect for his zeal and diligence as a teacher during the period of twenty-eight years.”

1845 At length in 1845 Mr Fyshe was stricken down by paralysis, and he caused a letter to be sent to the heritors, stating that he was desirous of resigning his position as parish schoolmaster, and requesting them to state what terms they were prepared to offer in the event of his so doing. They replied by requesting Mr Fyshe to state his own terms, and they would consider them. Mr Fyshe then offered to retire on being allowed to retain his salary of £30, together with the school-house and garden, or a money payment of £40 per annum, which, he stated, would enable him, together with his private means, to retire on an annual income of £110. Eventually the heritors offered £35, which was accepted; and the resignation  
1849 took effect on the 14th September, 1849. He did not long survive, as his death took place on the 19th April, 1850, in the sixty-first year of his age.

During the latter years of Mr Fyshe's connection with the school the work was to a large extent carried on by assistants,



amongst whom were Mr Rodger, who became his son-in-law; Mr Riddell, son of James Riddell, tailor in Galashiels; Rev. Mr Rennie, who afterwards occupied the honourable position of Moderator of the United Presbyterian Synod; and Mr Morrison, who was appointed interim teacher on the death of Mr Fyshe.

In filling up the vacancy, Mr Kemp from Dyce received the appointment on the recommendation of Mr Gordon, H.M. Inspector of Schools. However, after being appointed clerk to the heritors and everything had been done agreeably to his wishes, he wrote declining to come to Galashiels, as he had secured a preferable appointment elsewhere.

Under these circumstances, the services of the interim teacher were retained, and the Rev. K. M. Phin, the parish minister, was empowered to secure a suitable teacher. At a meeting of heritors Mr Phin produced testimonials from J. M. Pollock, one of the masters in the Merchiston Academy, and also from Robert Scott, who had been one of the masters in the West End Academy, Aberdeen. Mr Pollock received the appointment, and was elected clerk to the heritors. At that time 1850 there were 150 scholars in attendance, but shortly afterwards the number was increased to 190, when Mr Pollock found himself unable to manage the school with efficiency. He had been paying £30 per annum for the services of an assistant, but, in consequence of the lowness of the fees, his income was inadequate to meet such an outlay. He made complaint to the heritors, who, on investigation, found that the average fee at Lauder was five shillings and threepence; Melrose, five shillings and sixpence; Selkirk, eight shillings and sevenpence; while in Galashiels it only amounted to three shillings and sixpence per quarter.

Owing to the increasing number of scholars, further accommodation was urgently required, and Mr Pollock suggested a plan at once convenient and economical. This was to take in the adjoining byre and open a means of communication through the mutual wall, but this novel idea the heritors declined to 1854 entertain. In 1854 another revisal of fees took place, which were

now raised to,—reading, two shillings and sixpence; writing, three shillings and sixpence; with arithmetic, four shillings; with grammar, composition, history, and geography, four shillings and sixpence; with mathematics, five shillings; and with Latin, Greek, or French, seven shillings and sixpence per quarter.

1856 In 1856 Mr Pollock received a more lucrative appointment at Falkirk, and sent in his resignation. Some little difficulty being experienced in securing a suitable successor, the Rev. K. M. Phin opened the school for a few hours daily in order to keep the scholars together till the vacancy was filled up. Candidates having been advertised for, forty-two applications were received, and, previous to making the appointment, the heritors specified the emoluments, fees, hours of teaching, and holidays. They arranged that the salary and fees remain as already fixed, the schoolmaster being entitled to charge sixpence yearly from each scholar for coals. The hours of teaching were to extend from nine A.M. to one P.M., and from two to four P.M., except on Saturdays, when the time only extended from nine to eleven A.M., and the total number of holidays throughout the year was not to exceed six weeks.

The heritors appointed Alexander Williamson, M.A., from St Andrews, to the mastership. At that time Mr Williamson had completed his theological curriculum, and latterly obtained license from the Presbytery of Selkirk.

Owing to the influx of scholars from that portion of the town situated in the Melrose parish, the school soon proved too small; but, owing to the circumstances, the heritors declined to provide any further accommodation. At the same time they informed Mr Williamson that if he could procure subscriptions sufficient to make a suitable addition to the school they would favourably consider the idea of an enlargement. At the next meeting of heritors a deputation consisting of William Paterson and Arthur Dickson, manufacturers, and Alexander Combat, merchant, appeared, and produced a list of subscriptions amounting to £50 for the purpose of enlarging the school. Consideration was adjourned, and at the following meeting the deputation, with the

addition of Adam L. Cochrane, manufacturer, again came forward and submitted a plan estimated to cost £130. The heritors declined to entertain the proposed building scheme, but Major Scott of Gala offered to subscribe £30, provided the cost of the proposed addition did not exceed £100. At the next meeting the fund had risen to £108, and the heritors requested the deputation to procure a suitable plan for the site. This they declined to do, and the question was again dropped.

1859 In 1859 the heritors made the discovery that they had been paying a larger salary to Mr Williamson than their powers warranted, and it was accordingly reduced to £27, 11s 9d, the deficiency being made up by a voluntary subscription amongst themselves.

A few years afterwards, in consequence of legislation, the heritors increased Mr Williamson's salary to £50, he being obliged to secure the services of a female assistant to give instruction in industrial and household training, an additional sum of £5 being voted by the heritors to assist in that object.

1864 In 1864 the necessity for a further extension of the school had become clamant, and a petition, together with a list of subscriptions amounting to £290, 11s, were laid before the heritors, requesting that an addition should be made to the school. Mr Plummer of Sunderland Hall moved that nothing be done till the Parliamentary report on parochial schools was presented. The Rev. K. M. Phin moved an amendment, "that the heritors accept the subscriptions, and resolve to add a further sum of £300 to provide suitable accommodation;" but this did not find a seconder.

When the Government report was received in the following year, it referred to the overcrowded state of the school, and gave warning that further grants might be withheld unless it was enlarged. No attention having been paid to the threat, the grant was accordingly withheld the year following. Major Scott now increased his subscription toward the enlargement of the school to £105, thus raising the fund to £395, 11s, and the heritors, profiting by the lesson they had received, made a virtue

of necessity, and erected an addition to the existing building upon the east end of the school playground.

- 1872 After the passing of the Education Act in 1872, the school came under the jurisdiction of the School Board for the landward portion of the parish of Galashiels. The first board consisted of the following members, viz.,—Charles Scott Plummer of Sunderland Hall, chairman; Robert Sanderson, Knowepark; Arthur Dickson, Wheatlands; David Brotherstone, grain merchant; and James Stalker, writer, Galashiels; James Smail, banker, being elected clerk and treasurer.

The schoolmaster's salary was fixed at £50, with the addition of £5 to aid in providing a salary for a teacher of sewing. According to the Government requirements at that time, it was found that there existed accommodation for 260 scholars. The fees were revised and fixed at from 3s to 6s per quarter, with an addition of 1s extra for Latin, Greek, or French. On this footing, Mr Williamson paid the salaries of the sewing mistress and four pupil-teachers, he receiving any grants which they might earn.

- 1875 On the 2nd September, 1875, Mr Williamson died, and George Menzies, from Ladhope School, was engaged in his place. Mr Menzies was a native of the town, and, according to the terms of his engagement, was to receive the whole fees and grants, but he was bound to employ a sufficient staff of pupil-teachers, besides a lady teacher at a salary of £65, and also to provide fuel and light when required. On the 23rd November, 1880, Mr Menzies requested the Board to make application on his behalf to the Education Department for a pension, on the score of failing health. The Department, however, refused to entertain the proposal, and on the 17th December, 1881, Mr Menzies resigned.

- 1882 He was succeeded on the 5th January, 1882, by Robert Beveridge, from Castle Douglas, on whose appointment the scale of fees was again raised, the following being the various rates, viz.,—Standard I., 3d; II., 4d; III., 4½d; IV., 5d; V., 5½d; VI., 6d per week, no family being charged more than one

1889 shilling. In 1889 the logical result of a compulsory system of education took effect in the abolition of fees, and after protracted negotiations between the Burgh and Landward Boards, the school, which had been extended in 1890 to accommodate 450 scholars at a cost of £2700, was transferred to the Burgh School Board in 1895.

#### KENNEDY'S SCHOOL.

During the latter years of Mr Fairbairn's reign as parish schoolmaster another seminary was found necessary. Dr Douglas had two sons of school age, Robert and George, whom he wished to be educated at home. On account of Mr Fairbairn not being a classical scholar, this desire could not be gratified, in so far at least as the Parish School was concerned. In these circumstances, Dr Douglas waited upon those in the village who were in a better position, and persuaded them not only to send a portion of their family to a proposed new school, but also to subscribe something extra to the fees, so as to provide a suitable salary for the teacher. After all arrangements had been made, Dr Douglas selected as teacher Mr Ross Kennedy, a student of divinity from Lesmahagow, who opened the school in the ground floor of the Cloth Hall. The venture proved successful; the room was nearly filled. New books were introduced,—Goldsmith's *History of Rome*, *Ossian's Poems*, and *Scott's Beauties* being among them. Mr Kennedy procured them second-hand from Edinburgh, and a week seldom passed but one of the scholars was sent over to John Young, the carrier, for the usual parcel. The parents complained regarding the multiplicity of books, but to their complaints Mr Kennedy turned a deaf ear, and pursued the even tenor of his way.

Regarding either the date of the opening or the ultimate fate of this school, there remains no record. It is probable that 1797 it flourished between 1797 and 1810, when, at the advent of Robert Fyshe, the necessity for its existence ceased, and at the first opportunity its doors were closed and the pupils transferred to the Parish School,

## SCHOOL FOR DEAF AND DUMB.

1817 In 1817 another scholastic institution of a different nature existed in the village, but nothing is known regarding it save the following notice, which appeared in a contemporary newspaper,—

“Mr James Hunter in Galashiels has under his charge a deaf and dumb pupil, who is attested by the Rev. Dr Douglas, Messrs George Craig and John Paterson, writers, and others of the most respectable inhabitants of that town, to have made great progress in the elementary branches of education, in reading, writing, and arithmetic.

The said pupil was lately examined at Selkirk before the magistrates of the burgh, Justices of Peace, and minister of the parish, who have expressed their unqualified approbation of the ability of the teacher and the progress of the pupil; and they accordingly recommend Mr Hunter to the attention of the public, as a discreet, intelligent, able, and successful teacher of the deaf and dumb.”

## THE SUBSCRIPTION SCHOOL.

This institution was erected by public subscription in the centre of that ground now known as the Market Square, and  
1821 was opened in September, 1821. The site was granted free by Mr Scott of Gala, but the subscribers failed to procure titles and to enclose the area of ground attached to the school. Originally the managers consisted of all subscribers to the extent of £2 annually, but latterly this qualification was reduced to half that amount. No record of its rise and progress is known to exist, and the only names of the original managers which have survived are William Brown, manufacturer, and William Wood, skinner.

The first teacher was a Mr Scott, who, as was common at that time, took advantage of the annual inspection of the school by the Presbytery to introduce himself to public notice. The following advertisement in this connection appeared in the *Scotsman*,—

GALASHIELS, *April 30th*, 1823.

“This day, in presence of the heritors and other individuals connected with the town and parish of Galashiels, the school taught by Mr Scott was examined by a committee of the Presbytery of Melrose in reading, recitation,

grammar, Latin, French, arithmetic, history, geography, and writing. In all these branches the scholars acquitted themselves to the entire satisfaction of the examiners.

The praiseworthy diligence manifestly bestowed by Mr Scott on the moral and religious instruction of his pupils attracted the notice and merited the commendation of the committee, and, from the manner in which this numerous seminary is conducted, the examiners feel themselves fully warranted in recommending Mr Scott as a diligent and successful instructor of youth.

David Baxter, moderator; George Thomson, minister of Melrose; Peter Craw, minister of St Boswells; John Thomson, minister of Maxton; Nathaniel Paterson, minister of Galashiels; John Scott of Gala.

N.B.—Mr Scott has good accommodation for a few boarders. For particulars reference may be made to Professor Dunbar and Mr William Pyper, High School; and Archibald Gibson, Esq., W.S., Edinburgh; and to Dr Chrystal and Mr Lorrain, Grammar School, Glasgow."

Judging from the frequent changes that occurred among the teachers, this school does not appear to have been very successful. When Mr Scott left he was succeeded by George Simpson, who previously had conducted a school on his own account in High Buckholmside. After remaining but a short time, he removed to Heriot, and taught the school there for the succeeding fifty years.

Another teacher followed, also named Simpson, who came  
1828 from Torwoodlee, and was in office in 1828. Owing to his  
extraordinary length, he was dubbed "The Heron" by his  
pupils. He in turn was succeeded by Mr Johnstone, who gave  
1839 place to Mr Barclay, he being followed in 1839 by Mr Lees, who  
had conducted a school on his own account in the Baptist  
Chapel at the top of Overhaugh Street. When Mr Lees  
demitted office, his successor was Mr Grieve, who soon left,  
and his place was occupied by Mr Wilson, who in turn was  
succeeded by John Cowan, Baptist pastor, who carried on  
1850 the school till February, 1850, when he died.

The next teacher was the Rev. J. B. Robertson, who formerly had been minister in the Evangelical Union Church in Union Street, he being succeeded by Mr Tully, a student of divinity belonging to the town, who shortly afterwards died. Mr Mitchell was the next teacher, and remained for the

subsequent two years. At that time there were 150 scholars in attendance, the teacher's salary being £10, besides the fees. Mr Mitchell was succeeded by Mr Craig, who was noted principally on account of his proficiency as a teacher of drawing. During his term of office the school steadily declined, till his whole income did not exceed £25 per annum.

- 1861 In 1861 a meeting of the managers was held, at which it was discussed whether to endeavour to improve the efficiency of the school or remove it altogether. As the building was antiquated, they decided to pull it down, which was done the following year. After all claims had been met, it was found that a balance of £7 was left, which was devoted to the improvement of the Market Square.

#### DARLING'S HAUGH SUBSCRIPTION SCHOOL.

- 1845 This seminary was erected in 1845, upon a site in what used to be termed Darling's Haugh. After the passing of the Reform Bill in 1832, a number of houses were erected upon it by the Tory party for the purpose of securing votes, and for years afterwards it was known as the Tory Haugh. Latterly, however, the street became known as Stirling Street, commemorating the name of the building firm principally engaged in its erection.

The school originated in a desire amongst a portion of the community to procure for their families a better education than was obtainable in the town at that date. It was built by subscription, the trustees being John Cochrane and James Sime, manufacturers; Robert Haldane, writer; John Haldane, brewer; and William Sanderson, timber merchant.

The first teacher was Mr Steel, who removed to North Berwick, where he died. He was succeeded by Mr Bell, who was in office in 1848, but of whom no record remains. He in turn gave place to Alexander Fisher, from Newcastleton, where his father was parish schoolmaster. Mr Fisher was a licentiate of the Church of Scotland, but, giving up thoughts of the ministry, he became editor of the *Border Advertiser*; latterly



1850 emigrating to Canada, where he died. In 1850 the necessity which formerly existed for the maintenance of this school had ceased by the appointment of Mr Pollock to the Parish School, and the schoolhouse was sold to James Sime for £80, 5s.

#### WHITSON'S SCHOOL.

The teacher of this school was Robert Whitson, who originally was a footman in the service of the Gibsons of Ladhope. Leaving that situation, he opened a school in Comely-bank. When Mr Lees succeeded to the Subscription School Mr Whitson removed to the vacant schoolroom in Overhaugh Street, where, in course of time, he acquired the reputation of being a highly successful teacher of the young. He also did printing work on a small scale, and owned a shop in the same street, where he sold stationery and fishing tackle. Latterly the school was removed to a small building on the north side of Channel Street, the site of which is now occupied by the premises belonging to the Waverley Store Company. The school was largely made up by "half-timers," or boys who were too young to work full time, and who, according to the Factory Acts, were obliged to attend school half the day.

Mr Whitson was a genial but somewhat eccentric character, and an enthusiastic angler. He removed to Stow about 1864, where for some time after the passing of the Education Act he filled the office of School Board officer. He died on the 22nd January, 1881.

#### LADHOPE FREE CHURCH SCHOOL.

1843 After the Disruption in 1843 the infant Free Church, in addition to supplying the spiritual necessities of her people, also endeavoured to provide their secular education. With this object, the office-bearers in connection with Ladhope Free Church secured the middle flat of a three-story building, which still stands between the north side of Island Street and the Gala. It was a primitive-looking apartment, innocent of plaster, and

reached by an outside wooden trap stair. A blacksmith occupied the ground floor, and the top flat was filled with hand looms. There were about eighty pupils in attendance. The teacher was John Davidson, a student of divinity in connection with the Free Church. The whirl of the shuttles overhead and the clanging of the anvil beneath formed an accompaniment to the efforts of Mr Davidson perhaps unequalled in the annals of education. In 1849 the school was transferred to Union Street Chapel, where the attendance increased to 122. After struggling on for some time in the new quarters, the school collapsed for want of funds.

## GALA SCHOOL.

1846 This school had its origin in 1846, being the result of a petition addressed to Captain Scott of Gala, which set forth,—

“ That owing to the peculiar circumstances of the town, arising from so many of the married females having other things to attend to besides their domestic duties, and from most of the children being sent out at an early age to the factories, the want of a proper school for the training of infants has been sorely felt.”

Captain Scott entered very heartily into the scheme, and, in addition to granting a free site for the school in Roxburgh Street, also contributed the sum of £450. A grant of £200 from the Treasury, together with local subscriptions, made up the sum of £915, the total cost of the school.

After the building was erected, the subscribers met and elected a council of management to act along with Captain Scott. These were Thomas Davidson, Walter Cochrane, Henry Ballantyne, and Henry Sanderson, manufacturers; and William Rutherford, writer. On the advice of Captain Scott, the council appealed to Mr Gordon, the Government Inspector of Schools for the district, to recommend a suitable teacher. He selected Mr Ogilvie from Busby, near Glasgow, who was appointed to the office. The minimum salary was fixed at £60, payable from the fees, which, if not amounting to that sum, were to be

supplemented to the requisite extent by the council, and, after deduction of the amount required for insurance and repairs, the balance of any sum exceeding that amount in addition.

The fees were fixed at the following rates,—For children under four years of age, 1s 6d; for reading, above that age, 2s; with writing, 2s 6d; with arithmetic, 3s 6d; with grammar, 4s; with geography, 4s 6d; with mensuration, land surveying, and Latin, 6s per quarter. All pupils under six years of age to pay sixpence, and those above that age one shilling annually for coals.

1847 The school was opened on the 17th November, 1847, but, after a short term of office, Mr Ogilvie left. On the 29th October, 1849, the council engaged William Rogerson, who had been employed as interim teacher. In order to secure a grant from the Treasury, a salary amounting to £15 was subscribed,  
1857 and a grant of a similar sum received. In 1857 the school was reported upon as being in a flourishing condition. The number of scholars was 210, and Mr Rogerson got credit for being a painstaking and successful teacher. Afterwards some financial difficulties were experienced, and, at the council's request, the school was placed on the free list, the salary being reduced to £23.

1858 In 1858 Mr Rogerson left the district without warning, and it was discovered that he had emigrated to America, where, some years afterwards, he met with a tragic end, having been accidentally shot in a street brawl.

Candidates for the vacancy were advertised for, and Thomas Fairley, from Edinburgh, received the appointment. Mr Fairley was a native of Biggar, and received his professional education at Moray House Training College. After teaching about a year in Limekilns School, Fife, he came to Gala School, where he continued master till 1861, when he resigned in order to open a higher-class school on his own account.

The next teacher was James Duthie from Jedburgh, who was selected from twenty-two candidates. On his entry into office, the council raised the fees to a similar amount as was charged at

the Parish School. The conditions of the engagement were, that eight per cent. be deducted from all fees received, which at this time amounted to £90, for the purpose of keeping the premises in repair. All taxes to be paid by the teacher, and notice of two months was required on either side in the event of a change being desired.

1866 In June, 1866, Mr Duthie resigned, having been appointed to the mastership of the West Parish School, Aberdeen. In the following month James Coldwell, who had received his training in the school, was promoted to the mastership on the same terms as Mr Duthie.

1873 In October, 1873, at a meeting of the council it was agreed to hand over the school to the Burgh School Board, subject to the approval of Major Scott. No objection being offered, the school was transferred on the following terms,—

- "I. That the School Board pay the sum of £39, 11s 3d, being price of paving round two sides of the school.
- II. That the present teacher be continued in his office, the School Board undertaking all responsibility regarding him and the pupil-teachers incumbent upon the council of management.
- III. That the School Board pay all expenses of transfer in connection with the handing over of the school."

1892 Shortly after coming under the Board Mr Coldwell resigned, and the school was put under a headmistress and made an infant school. This arrangement was carried on till 1892, when the building was removed to provide a site for the present Gala Public School.

#### LADHOPE BANK SCHOOL.

This institution was conducted by Thomas Paterson, and for twenty-eight years supplied the educational wants of the Ladhope district.

Mr Paterson was a native of Ancrum, and commenced his career as a teacher at Old Melrose. From thence he successively removed to Gattonside, Fountainhall, and Uphall. He next went to Fife, where he laboured as a teacher of writing. He

came to Galashiels in 1842, and opened a school in Stirling Place where he remained till 1847, when he removed to Ladhope Bank. Latterly he fell into ill health, and when the district was otherwise provided for by the erection of Glendinning Terrace Public School, he resigned teaching on the 15th May, 1876. He died on the 15th January, 1877, in the sixty-sixth year of his age.

#### ST PETER'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL.

This school is in connection with St Peter's Episcopal Church, and originated at the establishment of St Mary's Chapel in Wilderhaugh, both chapel and school occupying the ground floor of what had previously been a private dwelling-house.

1851 The first teacher was Mr Barret, who started work in 1851; the number of pupils on the roll at the end of the first year being seventy. Mr Barret remained till 1855, and he was succeeded by George Bates, who taught the school till his resignation  
1858 in 1858.

In the following year the present school was erected in Abbotsford Road, with accommodation for 265 scholars. The first master in the new building was Thomas Shackelton, who remained till 1864, when he was succeeded by Charles Lapworth from Culham College, Berkshire. Mr Lapworth remained till  
1875 1875, when he resigned on receiving the appointment of second English master in the Madras College, St Andrews. In 1881 Mr Lapworth, who had attained to much distinction as a geologist, was appointed to the Chair of Geology and Mineralogy in the Mason Science College, Birmingham.

The next teacher was Benjamin Kirk, who resigned at the  
1893 close of 1893, and was succeeded by John Robinson, who still carries on the work of the school.

#### ST ANDREW'S ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL.

At the time that Mr Hope-Scott of Abbotsford built  
1853 the first Roman Catholic Chapel in Galashiels, in 1853, he also provided a schoolroom sufficiently large to accommodate all the

children belonging to the denomination at that time. As the congregation increased, the necessity for additional room soon began to make itself felt. Accordingly, when the first portion of the present church was erected, the old chapel was transformed into a schoolroom, and did duty as such for the succeeding twenty years. In addition to this school, Mr Hope-Scott also provided premises in Channel Street as a school for boys, and engaged the services of a teacher named McDermot, from Edinburgh. Owing, however, to the limited number of pupils who attended this school, it was given up.

- 1879 The present school was opened in 1879, being built during the pastorate of Father Sherlock. One of the houses used as a Presbytery had to be removed to provide room for a site, a playground being secured by the removal of the old school. The new building consists of two flats, the lower one being intended for the school, and the upper as a hall for congregational purposes. It was designed to accommodate 200 scholars. There is now accommodation for 278 pupils, the average attendance in 1895 being 218, when a grant of £211, 10s was earned.

1895 The following list comprises the names of the ladies who have acted as head-mistresses since the school was opened in 1853,—Mrs Delour, Misses Brady, Ennis, Connelly, Mead, Rutherford, Quinn, Hopper, Meehan, Barret, Gordon, Castignino, Mustyn, Mackay, Murray, Macdonald, and Cafferty.

#### THE ACADEMY.

- 1861 This educational establishment was opened in September, 1861, by Thomas Fairley, who previously had been master in Gala School. Previous to that date, a number of parents, desirous of securing for their children a more advanced education than was usually provided in the town at that time, approached Mr Fairley with the view of inducing him to open a higher-class school. Yielding to their solicitations, he leased a building in Bridge Place now known as Bridge House, and opened there the Galashiels Academy.

About this time the University of Edinburgh inaugurated a scheme for the examination of higher-class schools, known as the "University Local Examination Scheme," to which pupils from the Academy were presented, and after a year or two Galashiels became a centre for candidates for the district.

During the early years of the Academy, the attendance fluctuated between sixty and seventy pupils. The teaching staff consisted of the master, one male assistant, and a lady teacher whose time was almost entirely occupied in teaching music. There were also a visiting-master for drawing and a visiting-master for modern languages.

1870 In 1870 the Academy was removed to its present site in Croft Street, where it continued to be conducted on the lines  
1883 indicated till 1883, when it was taken over by the Burgh School Board, and, with the sanction of the Education Department, declared a "higher-class public school." The Board leased the premises for ten years and appointed Mr Fairley headmaster on the same terms as to tenure of office as the other teachers under their jurisdiction.

In order to extend the benefits of the education given at the Academy, a few gentlemen belonging to the town established a system of bursaries, and, chiefly through the exertions of Dr Somerville, Andrew Brown, Maryfield; James Sanderson, Woodlands; and others, a sum of £500 was raised for this purpose. These bursaries were offered for competition to candidates who were pupils at the elementary schools under the Board, and, being of the value of £5 each, they proved sufficient to defray the cost of education, including books. At the first competition twelve places were offered, and in succeeding years vacancies were competed for as they occurred. That they were highly appreciated was obvious, the number of competitors being always greatly in excess of the number of vacancies. A new class-room was built in 1883, furnishing altogether accommodation for 153 pupils, to provide for the increased attendance.

At the time the Academy was taken over by the Board, the

Education Department instituted a system of inspection of higher-class public schools, and since 1884 it has been annually inspected by a university professor. In 1888 Leaving Certificates were adopted by the Department, which render it almost impossible for a school to maintain its place if it fails to keep touch with the general advance in efficiency. In 1893 the Academy building was acquired by the Burgh School Board.

By the Education and Local Taxation (Scotland) Act, the Board receives the sum of £294 to be applied towards its maintenance. In return for this grant, the Board provides fifty free places to be competed for by pupils who have been in attendance at a State-aided school within the burgh for at least two years, not being under ten nor over twelve years of age. These free scholarships are tenable for four years, a period which may be extended at the pleasure of the Board.

Under the present arrangement, the Academy consists of preparatory, junior, and senior departments, and the staff comprises the headmaster, with two assistants, a mistress for the preparatory department, and a lady teacher of music.

Mr Fairley holds the record in the town for long and honourable service as an instructor of youth. Under his tuition, a generation which comprises a very considerable proportion of the business men of the town has grown up. In 1881 he was entertained to dinner by a number of his old pupils, who presented him with a silver salver bearing a suitable inscription and a purse containing £105. In 1892 Mr Fairley occupied the position of president of the Educational Institute of Scotland, when it met in Galashiels, the occasion being signalised by another presentation, consisting of a president's gown, gold badge, and a purse containing one hundred guineas.

#### LADHOPE SCHOOL.

1866 This school was erected in 1866 to meet the educational requirements of the west end of the town, its existence being principally due to the exertions of the Rev. Robert Blackstock. The school was originally vested in Ladhope Church



trustees, with an acting committee elected from those who subscribed towards its erection. The school and schoolhouse cost £1105, of which the heritors contributed £164; local subscribers, £511; grant from Treasury, £315; leaving a debt of £115, which was soon paid off.

The first teacher was Mr Wardrop, who remained till 1872, when George Menzies was appointed. Mr Menzies continued till 1875, when he received the appointment of headmaster of the old Parochial School, under the Landward School Board. He was succeeded by David Thomson, who conducted the school for the next five years, when in 1880 the school was taken over by the Burgh School Board. Mr Thomson resigned and was succeeded by Andrew Thomson, from Westruther. At this time the school had accommodation for 250 pupils. In 1887 the teacher's house was converted into a class-room, the alteration providing accommodation for sixty additional scholars. In February, 1894, Mr Thomson was transferred to Glendinning Terrace School, and his place was filled by Thomas Crerar, who had been promoted from an assistantship in the Burgh School.

#### THE BURGH SCHOOL.

The original portion of this building, together with the schoolhouse, were erected in 1874-75 at a cost of over £4900. Thomas Bain, from Tranent, was chosen to fill the position of headmaster. Owing to the rapid growth of the town at that date and onward, it was found necessary in 1882 to make an addition to the building, at a cost of £3194. In 1895 a considerable addition was made to the schoolhouse.

The school and schoolhouse have cost altogether more than £8790, there being accommodation for 920 scholars.

#### GLENDINNING TERRACE SCHOOL.

For the convenience of the children belonging to the parish of Melrose who resided in Galashiels and surrounding

district, Melrose School Board erected this school and school-house. The school provides accommodation for 351 scholars, and, including the schoolhouse, the cost was £3964, 10s 6d.

The school was opened on the 2nd May, 1876, by Henry Brown of Halkburn, who, as a member of the Melrose School Board, always took a hearty interest in its welfare. The first headmaster was William Dunlop, who had previously been engaged in Aberdeen.

After several futile attempts had been made by successive Burgh School Boards to acquire the school, terms were at 1891 length arranged, and in 1891 the buildings and teaching staff were taken over.

1894 In 1894 Mr Dunlop was transferred to the new Gala Public School in Roxburgh Street, and the vacancy was filled by the transference of Andrew Thomson from Ladhope School. In 1895 the school was completely filled, the average attendance being exactly equal to the accommodation.

#### GALA HIGH SCHOOL.

1891 This seminary was opened in November, 1891, as a voluntary higher-class school, under the examination and inspection of the Scotch Education Department.

The curriculum embraces a modern commercial education, including modern languages, Latin, English, shorthand, chemistry, mathematics, drawing, and music. The school is built to suit modern requirements; there is space for separate play-grounds for boys and girls, and it is the local centre for the London College of Music examinations.

The attendance is about 100. The fees in the preparatory department vary from 10s 6d to 16s per quarter, the junior from 15s to £1, and the senior up to £1, 10s, besides extras for special subjects.

The proprietor and headmaster is Andrew M. Grieve, undergraduate first-class (London) and certificated teacher, who is assisted by a competent staff.

## GALA PUBLIC SCHOOL.

1894 This school was completed in 1894 at a total cost of over £9317. It provides accommodation for 603 scholars, exclusive of the upper flat, which contains drawing, casting, cookery, and lecture rooms, and a splendidly-fitted chemical laboratory with bench accommodation for twenty-four students working at the same time.

The headmaster is William Dunlop, who was transferred from Glendinning Terrace School.

## MOAT HOUSE KINDERGARTEN AND SCHOOL.

1882 This institution had its origin in 1882 in a flat in the Victoria Buildings, and in 1885 it was removed to the present premises, near the site once occupied by the old Tolbooth. It is the only school in the town at the present time that exists exclusively for girls. The school is under the direction of the Misses Sime, who hold certificates for the theory and practice of education from Berlin and the Leipzig Conservatorium. They are assisted by four governesses, besides visiting teachers for piano, violin, and dancing.

In this seminary the Froebelian methods of teaching are employed as much as possible, and there is also a kindergarten department. The subjects taught comprise English, French, German, Latin, drawing, and music, there being a junior and senior class in each subject. The school year is divided into three terms, and the fees range from £1, 5s to £6, 6s per term, with the usual extras for special subjects.

## TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

1882 At a meeting of the Manufacturers' Corporation on 30th October, 1882, it was resolved to form a class for instruction in weaving; and, to defray the necessary expenditure, it was agreed to raise a guarantee fund of £500. A committee was

appointed to carry the resolution into practical effect, the lower room of the Public Hall being secured as a class-room, and a properly qualified teacher engaged.

At this stage the committee was instructed to confer with the council of the Mechanics' Institute to ascertain if they would undertake the management of the school. In that event the Corporation offered to relieve them from all financial liability; and, so as to secure a voice in the management, they suggested that the committee be admitted members of the council of the Mechanics' Institute. These terms being considered satisfactory, the council undertook the duty, and it was also agreed to commence an additional class for the purpose of giving instruction in the art of dyeing.

1883 The school was opened in November, 1883, on which occasion Lord Reay occupied the chair, and a lecture was delivered by Mr Beaumont, weaving master, Leeds, the subject being "Technical education in connection with the fancy woollen trade." At the close of the meeting ninety-one pupils were enrolled.

1884 The class proved highly successful, and in 1884 the dyeing class won a bronze medal and the sum of £15 from the City and Guilds of London Institute. At that time an additional class was formed for the study of chemistry. The next year's work showed great progress,—among twenty pupils who sat for examination, one bronze medal and three first and twelve second-class certificates having been secured. In 1887 the result of the examinations held under the Science and Art Department of the City and Guilds of London Institute showed better results from this school than from any other of a similar kind in the United Kingdom.

1888 In 1888 the Burgh School Board resolved to establish a technical school, and for this purpose a combination was effected with the Melrose and Galashiels Landward Boards. The committee of management consisted of fourteen members, of whom four were from the Burgh Board, four from the Manufacturers' Corporation, two each from Melrose and Landward School

Boards, and one each from the building and engineering trades in the town. The classes were opened in the autumn of 1889 with a staff of five teachers. The subjects comprised mathematics, mechanics, elementary and advanced drawing, chemistry, magnetism and electricity, wool-dyeing, and a junior and senior class for weaving.

The classes which had been organised by the Manufacturers' Corporation were now combined with those of the Burgh School Board under the designation of the "Galashiels Combined Technical School." This arrangement continued till 1891, when Glendinning Terrace and the Landward School in the Old Town were acquired by the Burgh School Board. Since that date the school has been styled "The Galashiels Technical School," and has been carried on with a varying degree of success under the joint management of the Burgh School Board and the Manufacturers' Corporation.

In addition to the foregoing schools, there have been a number of other establishments. Amongst these were that of the Misses Stewart, who for a lengthened period conducted a higher-class school for girls in Roxburgh Street; Miss Copeland, in Elm Row; Miss Locke; Mrs Dickson; Miss Main, Bridge Street; Mrs Notman, Green Street; Mrs Chalmers, Comelybank; Mrs Fairbairn, Queen Street; Miss Halley, Queen Street; Miss Crosbie, Channel Street; and Miss Brockie.

Since the Education Act came into force, the total cost incurred by the School Boards in the town for the erection of 1896 buildings has amounted to £25,500. In 1896 the Board employed seventy-three teachers, whose aggregate salaries amounted to £4597, 5s per annum.

The following are the names and periods of service of the various chairmen of the Burgh School Board since 22d March, 1873,—William Brown, Gala Hill, from 1873 to 1876; Thomas Roberts, 1876 to 1885; Dr Somerville, 1885 to 1894; James Brown, Ashwood, from 1894.

## **SECTION V.—BANKS AND BANKERS.**



## CHAPTER I.

### EDINBURGH AND LEITH BANK.

THE first bank established in Galashiels was a branch of the Edinburgh and Leith Banking Company, with William Craig, writer, as agent. Mr Craig was the first of his profession in the village, and, by his integrity and honesty, earned the confidence and goodwill of all with whom he came in contact. In his day, facilities for entering into lawsuits were not so plentiful as now, and, when differences arose among the villagers, the services of Mr Craig were generally required as umpire. His decisions in such cases were considered so just and equitable that he became known in the village as "God's lawyer."

1803 Mr Craig died in 1803, and was succeeded by his son George, then only twenty years of age, whose name became a household word in the village, and, among the older natives of the town, anecdotes and reminiscences in which he forms the central figure still exist.

1813 In 1813 Baron Bailie Paterson died, and Mr Craig was appointed his successor, and in this relation he was widely known and highly respected. He was on terms of intimacy with Sir Walter Scott, who was a frequent visitor at the bank in connection with his financial affairs, and who thus refers to Mr Craig in a letter to a friend,—

"George Craig, writer, Galashiels, for whose judgment, sagacity, and even for whose taste I have much respect."

1820 In 1820 Mr Craig was accidentally hurt while hunting. The incident is thus recorded by Sir Walter, who was present,—

"Queen Mab, who was bestrode by Captain Adams, lifted up her heels against Mr Craig of Galashiels, whose leg she greeted with a thump like a pistol shot. Mr Craig was helped from his horse, but would not permit his



boot to be drawn off, protesting he would faint if he saw the bone of his leg sticking through the stocking. Some thought he was reluctant to exhibit his legs in their primitive and unclothed simplicity, in respect they have an unhappy resemblance to a pair of tongs. The Captain declared that if the accident had happened in action, the surgeon and drum boys would have had off, not his boot only, but his leg to boot, before he could have uttered a remonstrance. At length Gala and I prevailed to have the boot drawn, and to my great joy I found the damage was not serious, though the pain must have been severe."

It is stated in the *Unpublished Annals of the Parish* that

"In conducting the affairs of the bank, Mr Craig enjoyed the assistance of a most trustworthy assistant, who, before the passing of the Reform Bill, blossomed into a most violent Whig, while Mr Craig was the local agent in the Tory interest.

Without any consideration for the position of his employer, he got into the habit of attending all the Whig meetings, and soon became a man of light and leading in that party. Latterly his enthusiasm became so great that, after attending some political demonstration, he could not sleep, but sat up till three o'clock in the morning, drinking ale and reading the *Examiner* newspaper, Leigh Hunt, the editor, having become the literary god of his idolatry. His conduct at length became intolerable, and Mr Craig was compelled to dispense with his services. He was succeeded by a young man who did not care a straw for the political opinions of either Whig, Tory, or Radical, but soon betrayed a strong proclivity to spend his money in glorious nightly jubulations in one or other of the public houses in the village in the company of a few boon companions."

Owing to such conduct, Mr Craig was forced to dispense  
1836 with the services of this worshipper of Bacchus also, and in 1836 he entered into partnership with William Rutherford, writer, from Jedburgh, the firm being known as Craig & Rutherford. In the same year Mr Craig received a token of public esteem, and the occasion was thus referred to in a provincial newspaper,—

"The enterprising and industrious inhabitants of the thriving town of Galashiels evinced their feelings of gratitude to Mr Craig, their worthy Bailie and respected townsman, by presenting him with a handsome silver salver and jug of the value of £70, upon which was engraved a suitable inscription. The contributors were of all classes—manufacturers, artisans, and farmers in the neighbourhood, who have had daily relations with Mr Craig for the past thirty years.

An excellent dinner was given in Thorburn's new inn, at which upwards of sixty were present, William Paterson, Esq., in the chair."



JOHN PRINGLE

ROBERT HALDANE

ROBERT STEWART



It was told, regarding Mr Craig, that an elderly maiden lady, belonging to one of the county families in the district, died and left him all that she possessed. On being apprised by the relatives of the terms of her will, Mr Craig declined to take advantage of such an opportunity of enriching himself. It was with difficulty that he was prevailed upon to accept some trifling article of jewellery as a memento of the deceased lady.

1842 In 1842 the Leith Bank failed, and, being a shareholder, Mr Craig was ruined. This proved his death-blow, his spirit was broken, and an attack of bronchitis cut him off in 1843, in the sixtieth year of his age.

#### THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND.

1825 A branch of the National Bank was opened in 1825 in the premises it presently occupies. Robert Haldane, writer, was the first agent. The house was built by George Scott, and, previous to the opening of the bank, was known as "The Fleece Inn." The upper flat was used as a ballroom, and it was in this room that the Manufacturers' Corporation entertained Sir Walter Scott in 1821. In these days the sport of cock-fighting was extensively patronised, and at Fasterns-reen the centre of the large room was laid with turf, upon which many a valiant bird met his death.

Previously the street was known as Scott's Place, presumably in relation to the owner of the inn, but after the bank was opened the present name was substituted.

Mr Haldane was a native of the town, and the name is one of the oldest on record in the locality. In the rent roll of the barony of Gala in 1656, given elsewhere, it is borne by five individuals whose social position ranged from the humble "under coater" to the aristocratic "twelfe soume mailer."

Mr Haldane served his apprenticeship in the office of John Paterson, writer, on the completion of which he went to Glasgow, where he acquired a varied experience in commercial and general business. He returned to Galashiels in 1823, and started business on his own account.

At that date Galashiels was but a struggling village; the public works were small, and capital was extremely limited. Mr Haldane soon realised that business on all hands was hampered for want of capital, and that if the town was to prosper, more money must be forthcoming. The only other bank in the town at that time was the branch of the Edinburgh and Leith Banking Company, but the little money it had to lend was so difficult to obtain that it was often beyond the power of would-be borrowers to procure it. Dr Douglas had encouraged and assisted the struggling manufacturers to the best of his ability, but he had passed away before they had fully surmounted the difficulties in which he had assisted them during his life time.

After being appointed agent for the National Bank, Mr Haldane found himself in a position to assist steady and industrious men to carry on and increase their businesses. At the same time his intimate knowledge of their various circumstances enabled him to do so with advantage to his clients as well as the bank. The beneficial result was soon observable in the progress of the town, and, by his judicious assistance, the foundations of its after prosperity were firmly laid.

Mr Haldane acted as the Liberal agent for the Galashiels district of the county of Selkirk, as well as for the similar 1829 portion of Roxburghshire. In 1829 he was presented with the freedom of the burgh of Peebles, and in 1842 he received a similar honour from the burgh of Selkirk. During the political agitation previous to the passing of the Reform Bill, Mr Haldane acted as one of the local political leaders in the town, as the following letter testifies,—

“WHITEHALL, 27th October, 1831.

SIR,—I have had the honour of laying before the King, the loyal and dutiful address of the manufacturers, merchants, and other inhabitants of the town of Galashiels, on the subject of Parliamentary reform, which accompanied your letter of the 21st to Earl Grey.

And I have the satisfaction to acquaint you that His Majesty was pleased to receive the same in the most gracious manner.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

ROBERT HALDANE, Esq.

MELBOURNE.”

Mr Haldane was mainly instrumental in raising the capital for and establishing the Galashiels Gas Light Company, of which he became the secretary and treasurer. He played an active part in promoting the formation of the North British Railway to the town, and acted on behalf of the Railway Company in purchasing the various properties in the district. He also did much valuable work in furthering the Galashiels and Selkirk Railway, becoming one of the first directors.

While doing much for his native town, Mr Haldane also took a great interest in agricultural matters. By means of judicious advances to farmers in times of depression, he became the warm friend of many whose descendants to this day remember with gratitude what he did for their fathers in adverse times.

1854 In 1854 Mr Haldane was entertained to a public dinner in the Bridge Inn assembly room, where a company of seventy gentlemen, comprising all the manufacturers in the town, besides farmers and others from the surrounding district, met to do him honour. The chair was occupied by William Paterson of Ettrickhall, who, in proposing the toast of the evening, said

“They had met to express their esteem and regard for their guest. They were all much indebted to him for the high standing and celebrity Galashiels had attained as a manufacturing town. When they were less prosperous than at present, by prudent liberality Mr Haldane had helped them through their difficulties. He had imbued them with a spirit of enterprise in building mills, and had added very much to the wealth and prosperity of the district.”

1855 Mr Haldane latterly became tenant of the farm of Fernielee, which he occupied till his death in 1855.

He was succeeded in the bank agency by his son William, who, in connection with his brother Richard, carried on the law business founded by their father. William Haldane also acted as Liberal agent for the Galashiels district of the county of Selkirk. He was the local agent for the Hon. George Elliot when he unsuccessfully contested the Border Burghs against George O. Trevelyan in 1868. Mr Haldane died on 21st 1887 December, 1887.

- 1874 In 1874, consequent on the state of Mr Haldane's health, William Little, from Selkirk, was appointed his bank assistant.
- 1880 When Mr Haldane resigned the agency of the bank in 1880, John Dun, Craig Park, was selected to succeed him, but latterly the agency has been jointly held by Messrs Dun and Little.

Mr Dun is a native of the town, and belongs to a family who have been connected with agriculture for generations, amongst whom one at least was found in the ranks of the Covenanters. He has for a long period acted as secretary of the Galashiels Farmers' Club, and served on the Parochial Board for a term of years, and is now an active member of the Parish Council. He has served several terms in the Town Council, and has filled the office of Bailie for the last five years.

#### THE EDINBURGH AND GLASGOW BANK.

- 1843 A branch of this bank was opened about 1843 in Sime Place, with John Pringle, writer, as agent. In course of time the office was removed to a building erected for that purpose in Bridge Street at the north end of Johnstone's Close.

Mr Pringle was a native of Melrose, where he served his apprenticeship as a writer, and afterwards removed to Edinburgh. On his appointment as agent for the above bank, he came to Galashiels and held that position till it stopped payment in 1857.

- When Galashiels was constituted a Police Burgh, Mr Pringle was appointed assessor and collector, which offices he held till 1871, about which date he retired from business and
- 1880 shortly afterwards removed to Edinburgh, where he died in 1880.

Mr Pringle was an enthusiastic angler, and was one of the original members of the Edinburgh Angling Club which held its symposiums at the old "Nest," overlooking Tweed's silvery stream at Fernielee.

#### THE CITY OF GLASGOW BANK.

- 1844 This branch was opened in 1844 in the old Cloth Hall under the charge of William Hastie, who had succeeded George Craig as Baron Bailie on the Gala estate the previous year.

Before coming to Galashiels, Mr Hastie had been for twenty years managing clerk to Messrs Curle & Erskine, Melrose, and before leaving he was entertained to a public dinner. Dr Clarkson proposed the toast of the evening, and at the same time presented him with a silver jug suitably inscribed.

- 1849 Mr Hastie died in 1849, and the bank agency was transferred to William Rutherford, writer, who removed the bank office to premises at the foot of High Street, near its junction with Bank Street, and latterly to a more suitable building at the junction of High Street and Channel Street, where the business
- 1856 was carried on till 1856, when, owing to difficulties at headquarters, the branch was closed.

#### THE WESTERN BANK OF SCOTLAND.

- 1854 Hugh Lees, writer, opened a branch of this bank in Galashiels in 1854 in the premises at the head of High Street presently occupied by the Royal Bank of Scotland.

- Mr Lees was the youngest of the family of Richard Lees, manufacturer, Buckholmside. A few years previous to the opening of the bank Mr Lees had been in partnership as a solicitor with his brother-in-law, Robert Haldane, agent of the National Bank of Scotland. This connection was dissolved about 1849. When the Police Act was adopted in 1850, Mr Lees received the appointment of Clerk to the Commissioners.
- 1857 In 1857, when the Western Bank collapsed, he suffered to a considerable extent through being a shareholder.

#### THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND.

- 1857 Immediately after the failure of the Western Bank in 1857, a branch of the above bank was opened in the premises previously occupied by the Western Bank, also under the charge of Mr Lees, who did not long survive the appointment. He died on
- 1858 3rd December, 1858, at the early age of forty-seven. He was succeeded in the agency by Robert Stewart, whom, a few months



previously, he had assumed as a partner in the law business, and the firm was known as Lees & Stewart.

Mr Stewart was a native of Murthly, Perthshire, and was only about twenty-two years of age when his partner died. He then succeeded to all the appointments held by Mr Lees at the time of his death.

In connection with the Bank, a joint-agent was appointed in the person of William Paterson of Ettrick Hall and Glendearg, who also tenanted the farm of Kilnknowe, and carried on business as a tanner in Channel Street. Mr Paterson died in 1875 1875, when Mr Stewart became sole agent till his sudden and unexpected demise, which occurred at Grantley on 16th July, 1879.

Mr Stewart was succeeded in the bank agency by Richard Lees, only son of Hugh Lees. Mr Lees was born in 1845, and served his apprenticeship with Messrs Freer & Dunn, solicitors, Melrose. He was admitted a law agent in 1866, when he joined his father's firm of Lees & Stewart. In 1879 he was appointed Town Clerk, and in the same year, at the death of Mr Stewart, he succeeded to his various municipal and other public offices. As secretary to the South of Scotland Chamber of Commerce, Mr Lees has taken an active interest in the promotion of all legislation and other public measures affecting trade in the Border towns, and is the author of "The Inferior Courts Judgments Extension Act, 1882." In that year he was appointed Consular Agent of the United States for the south of Scotland.

To Mr Lees is largely due the placing of the bust of Sir Walter Scott in Westminster Abbey. He adopted the suggestion of such a project, contained in a letter in one of the daily papers in June, 1894, and became secretary and treasurer of a committee appointed at a meeting held in London for the purpose of carrying out the idea. The sum of £540 was collected, and the bust, a copy of Chantrey's in Abbotsford, from the studio of John Hutchison, R.S.A., Edinburgh, was unveiled by the Duke of Buccleuch in the Poet's Corner, in May, 1897, where a prominent site, long intended for Scott, was given by the Dean.

## THE BANK OF SCOTLAND.

1857 The local branch of the above bank was opened in 1857 by William Rutherford, writer, in the building formerly occupied by the City of Glasgow Bank, adjoining the west end of the present Post Office, where it remained till 1862, when it was removed to the present premises.

Mr Rutherford was a native of Jedburgh, and came to Galashiels in 1836, when he entered into partnership with George Craig. Mr Craig was agent for the Edinburgh and Leith Banking Company, and when that institution collapsed in 1842 he lost all his means, being one of the shareholders. Although Mr Rutherford had no connection with the bank, he became responsible for the liabilities of the firm, and before its affairs were wound up it cost him £4000. After the death of Mr Craig, Mr Rutherford continued to carry on the business on his own account, and when Mr Hastie died in 1849 he received the agency of the City of Glasgow Bank, which he managed till 1856, when the branch was closed.

In 1857, as has been stated, Mr Rutherford accepted an agency of the Bank of Scotland, and about 1860 he assumed his son Alexander as joint-agent. This continued till 1891, when Mr Rutherford died, and in the following year Alexander Rutherford assumed his son William as joint-agent, under which arrangement the business of the bank is still carried on.

William Rutherford was one of the founders of the municipality of Galashiels, and, after the first election of Commissioners in 1850, he was elected Senior Magistrate, which position he occupied for the subsequent six years. He was also agent for the Conservative party in the counties of Roxburgh and Selkirk, and was a prominent figure in the keen political contests which took place during his day.

1859 About 1859 a case happened which brought him much fame as a shrewd and able lawyer. He had two clients, the Misses Darling, the last representatives of an old local family, who resided at Portobello, where they made the acquaintance of a Pole named Willobyski, who at the time was practising in

Edinburgh as a homœopathist. The intimacy resulted in his forming the intention of marrying one of the sisters. The other sister died, and when her will was read its terms raised suspicions in Mr Rutherford's mind that undue influence had been employed. He collected such evidence as resulted in securing a conviction for forgery, and Willobyski was sentenced to penal servitude for a term of years.

When Miss Darling died several years afterwards she bequeathed her property to Mr Rutherford and her medical attendant, Dr Menzies, who conveyed it to the relations of the deceased lady.

When the City of Glasgow Bank collapsed in 1878, Mr Rutherford was one of the shareholders, and he delivered up his last farthing to the liquidators to satisfy the claims of the Bank creditors. At that time he was seventy-four years of age, but he set himself bravely to begin life again as he had done when he came to the town. He died on the 13th December, 1891, aged eighty-six.

#### THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SCOTLAND.

The Galashiels branch of the above bank was opened by 1866 James Smail on the 1st November, 1866, in a corner shop in High Street on the south side of Johnstone's Close, opposite the Public Hall. The present premises were opened in 1868.

Mr Smail is a native of Jedburgh, and came to Galashiels from Earlston, where he had also established a branch of the same bank. He remained in Galashiels for thirteen years, and took a hearty interest in all that concerned the welfare and prosperity of the town. For eleven years he acted as Quartermaster to the Border Battalion of Volunteers, and for several years was secretary to the Border Rifle Association. He also acted for a time as secretary to the Selkirk and Galashiels Agricultural Society, treasurer to the Galashiels Farmers' Club, and clerk and treasurer to the Landward School Board.

1880 In 1880 he was promoted to the Kirkcaldy branch of the bank; and, previous to leaving Galashiels, he was entertained to

a public dinner, at which the late Sir George Douglas presided over a company of 140 representative gentlemen belonging to the town and Border district generally. He remained in Kirkcaldy for five years, when he was called to Edinburgh to fill the position of secretary to the Commercial Bank.

Mr Smail was an enthusiastic and successful angler, and occasionally might have been seen, rod in hand, wending his way along the banks of the Tweed, Gala, Leader, or indeed any other of the famous Border streams, all of which he knew as an angler.

Mr Smail was a regular contributor to *Once a Week* when Shirley Brooks was editor; and has also written prose and verse for *Chambers' Journal* and other magazines, besides devoting a good deal of time to the study of natural history and archæology, and he has written largely on these subjects. He also wrote occasional verses and ballads, which appeared in the *Scotsman* under the *nom de plume* of "Matthew Gotterson."

The following verses are given as specimens of his writings,—

#### AN UPLAND WINTER NIGHT.

##### I.

Fierce the storm blast swirls and surges,  
 Blindin' night-drift sweeps the sky,  
 As beside the silent peat fire  
 Silent sit my wife and I;  
 And the collies watch and listen  
 In a silent, strange unrest;  
 Glowerin' sadly in our faces,  
 As with sympathy impressed.  
 Neighbours we hae nane to crack wi',  
 Dreary nights like this to cheer;  
 Wild and wordless voicings only  
 Risin' on the night we hear.  
 I' the glen the burn is roaring,  
 Fierce the fox barks on the hill,  
 And the fir wood's fitful moaning  
 Brings a melancholy thrill:  
 While on snaw-bound door and window  
 Mystic strokes the pauses fill:  
 A' withoot is wild and restless,  
 A' within is hushed and still.

## II.

So we sit, and brood, and listen,  
 Unrelieved by warmth or light,  
 For a sadness steals upon us  
 Wi' the wildness o' the night.  
 Even memory fails to picture  
 Summer's glowing hills and skies;  
 For the past dies in the present,  
 A' its light in shadow lies.  
 But though far frae friendly faces,  
 And though dowie ilka heart,  
 We repine not, without murmur  
 We accept our humble part.  
 Life is merged in joy and sorrow  
 By the Will that rules it a',  
 And we strive to take the portions  
 Meetly that to us befa'.  
 Still, we sit and brood and listen  
 As if dead our spirit-light,  
 For a sadness hangs around us  
 Wi' the wildness o' the night.

Mr Smail's lyre is not confined to one string. He is the author of that stirring Border ballad entitled "Little Jock Elliot." It breathes the characteristic spirit of old Border life, with its feuds and forays, its rough-riding moss-troopers, and devil-may-care rievvers. It is a perfect embodiment of the reckless daring, the fierce courage, and untamable spirit of the men who lived in those wild and lawless times. The refrain is very old, and is all that remains of some forgotten ballad.

## LITTLE JOCK ELLIOT.

My castle is aye my ain,  
 An' herried it never sall be;  
 For I maun fa' ere it's taen,  
 An' wha daur meddle wi' me?  
 Wi' my kute i' the rib o' my naig,  
 My sword hingin' down by my knee,  
 For man I am never afraid—  
 For wha daur meddle wi' me?

Wha daur meddle wi' me?  
 Wha daur meddle wi' me?  
 Oh, my name it is Little Jock Elliot—  
 An' wha daur meddle wi' me?

Fierce Bothwell I vanquished clean,  
 Gar'd troopers an' fitmen flee,  
 By my faith I dumfounded the Queen—  
 But wha daur meddle wi' me?  
 Alang by the Dead Water stank,  
 Jock Fenwick I met on the lea,  
 But his saddle was toom in a clank—  
 An' wha daur meddle wi' me?

Where Keildar meets wi' the Tyne,  
 Mysel' an' my kinsmen three,  
 We tackled the Percys nine—  
*They'll* never mair meddle wi' me.  
 Sir Harry wi' nimble brand,  
 He pricket my cap ajee,  
 But I cloured his head on the strand—  
 An' wha daur meddle wi' me?

The Cumberland rieurs ken  
 The straik my arm can gie,  
 An' warily pass the glen—  
 For wha daur meddle wi' me?  
 I've chased the loons down to Carlisle,  
 Jookit the raip on the Hairibee,  
 Where my naig nickert an' cockit his tail—  
 But wha daur meddle wi' me?

My kinsmen are true, an' brawlie,  
 At glint o' an enemy,  
 Round Parke's auld turrets they rally—  
 An' wha daur meddle wi' me?  
 Then, heigh for the tug and the tussle,  
 Though the cost be Jethart tree;  
 Let the Queen and her troopers gae whussle—  
 Oh! wha daur meddle wi' me?

Wha daur meddle wi' me?  
 Wha daur meddle wi' me?  
 Oh, my name it is Little Jock Elliot—  
 An' wha daur meddle wi' me?

When Mr Smail left for Kirkcaldy he was succeeded at Galashiels by Frederick Russell, who had been agent for the same bank at Earlston. Mr Russell was transferred to  
1891 Glasgow in 1891, and Alexander T. Dalgliesh was selected as his successor.

Mr Dalgliesh is a native of Stirling, where he entered the service of the bank, and in 1872 he was transferred to the Glasgow office. He was appointed agent at the Trongate branch in 1890, and in the following year was promoted to the branch at Galashiels.

#### THE BRITISH LINEN COMPANY.

1873 In 1873 the above banking company acquired the property in Bridge Street which belonged to John Pringle, who in the same premises formerly acted as agent for the Edinburgh and Glasgow Bank. George D. Cramond was first agent for the British Linen Company here.

Mr Cramond is a native of Roxburghshire, and came to Galashiels in 1873, when he commenced business as a solicitor. He carried on his work in connection with the bank till 1878, when he resigned the agency, and was succeeded by Frank S. Fairbairn.

Mr Fairbairn belonged to Selkirk, and received his training as a solicitor in Edinburgh. When appointed agent for the bank, he removed to Galashiels, where he commenced practice as a writer and solicitor. In 1879 he was appointed Procurator-Fiscal for the burgh, and in 1883 clerk and treasurer to the Burgh School Board.

Mr Fairbairn was widely known in connection with the Volunteer movement, having been lieutenant in the 2nd Company of the Q.E.R.V.B. previous to coming to Galashiels. He afterwards joined the local Volunteer corps, where he rose from one rank to another till he became Captain and Hon. Major in the First Selkirk Border Rifles.

Mr Fairbairn was for many years secretary to the southern division of the Scottish Twenty Club. He was also the

Unionist agent in the district for the combined counties of Selkirk and Peebles. He died on the 18th February, 1893, and was interred in the Eastlands Cemetery with military honours.

1881 In 1881 the bank acquired property in High Street, which was demolished and the present premises erected. When Mr Fairbairn died he was succeeded by John and Donald G. Stalker, writers, as joint-agents. Messrs Stalker are sons of the late James Stalker, who succeeded Mr Hastie as Baron Bailie in 1849. When he died in 1896 his son, Donald G. Stalker, was appointed to the office.

#### SAVINGS BANK.

1815 The first institution of this kind in connection with the town was established in the year 1815. The governor and directors of the bank were Dr Douglas, the parish minister, and the heritors. George Craig, agent for the Leith Bank, was appointed treasurer, and the secretary was Elliot Anderson, writer. The scope of its operations was not strictly limited to the parish of Galashiels, but included the western portion of the parish of Melrose, and the eastern part of the parish of Stow.

Deposits of not less than five shillings nor exceeding £10 were received, interest being allowed at the best rate which could be obtained where the capital was deposited.

1842 The balance at the credit of the depositors at the end of the first year was £150, which gradually increased, till in 1831 it had reached the sum of £707. Regarding its further progress nothing is known, but, owing to the collapse of the Edinburgh and Leith Banking Company in 1842, in which the capital was deposited, it came to an untimely and disastrous end. When this event occurred, the depositors considered that the governor and directors were personally liable to the full extent of their deposits, together with the interest which might be due. They engaged Robert Haldane, writer, to act on their behalf, but the governors disclaimed all responsibility, and intimated their intention of resisting any claim that might be preferred against



them. Nothing further was done in the matter, and in January the following year a dividend of five shillings and sixpence per pound was paid to depositors. A further dividend of three shillings and a penny farthing was paid, and in 1844 a final dividend of one shilling and sevenpence three farthings was received, amounting in all to ten shillings and threepence.

#### GALASHIELS SAVINGS BANK.

1858 This institution was inaugurated in 1858, at a meeting held by a number of local gentlemen interested in the welfare of those for whose benefit savings banks were originally established.

Hugh Lees, writer, took a prominent part in the proceedings, and at a subsequent meeting, presided over by John Cochrane, Chief Magistrate, Mr Lees read over the rules which had been prepared by a committee consisting of Messrs Sibbald, Anderson, and Adam L. Cochrane. At this meeting Major Scott of Gala was appointed governor; James Dalrymple of Langlee, deputy governor; and the Chief Magistrate of the burgh of Galashiels for the time being president.

Out of the forty-two gentlemen originally connected with the bank, the only survivors are John Cochrane, Willowbush, and Adam L. Cochrane, Kingsknowes; the former still continuing as a trustee.

The first actuary was John Brown, accountant in the Royal Bank of Scotland, who held the office for eleven years. At his death in 1869 the deposits amounted to £8748, 14s 3d. He was succeeded by John Coldwell, clerk to Lees & Stewart, writers.

1873 On the resignation of Mr Coldwell in 1873, the present actuary, John Turnbull, accountant, Royal Bank of Scotland, received the appointment. When Mr Turnbull entered upon the duties the deposits were £11,453, 18s 7d, and, under his management, the funds have increased to £71,519, 7s in 1896.

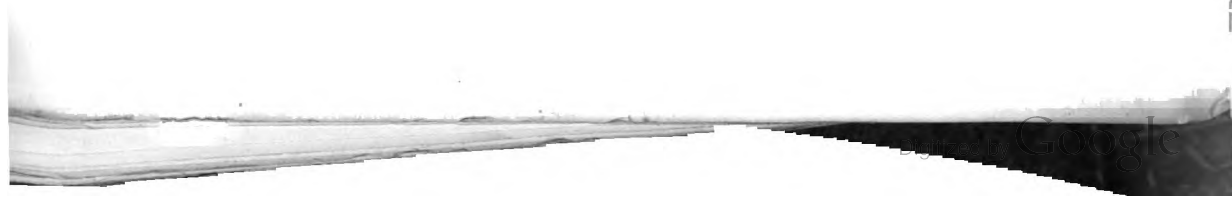
The progress which this Bank has made affords striking evidence of the growth and prosperity of the town, and testifies in the strongest manner to the thrifty and provident habits of the inhabitants.

The Bank is certified under the Act of 1863, and is managed by trustees and managers, the former being *ex-officio* also managers. Neither trustees nor managers derive any personal benefit from the deposits. The funds are invested with the Government in name of the trustees, and the interest allowed enables the Bank to pay the expenses of management and afford to depositors £2, 7s 6d per cent. The Bank is carried on in premises in High Street.

1895 The total number of depositors on 20th May, 1895, was 3202, besides twelve penny banks, thirty charitable societies, and four friendly societies. Deposits are limited to sums of not less than one shilling and not exceeding £30 per annum, till such time as they amount to £200, including interest.



**SECTION VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.**



## CHAPTER I.

### GALASHIELS LODGE OF FREEMASONS, No. 262.

1702 **I**N 1702 a Lodge of Freemasons existed at Haughfoot, a hamlet now represented by one solitary dwelling situated near the junction of the Lugate and the Gala. Nothing is known of the origin of the Lodge, but the brethren who were wont to assemble in that solitary place must have been enthusiastic members of the craft, as they gathered from Hoppringle, Falahill, Stockbridge, Galashiels, Selkirk, and Philiphaugh, distances ranging from seven to twenty-six miles.

1722 On various occasions between the years 1722 and 1729 the Lodge met at Galashiels. The last meeting at Haughfoot took place on the 27th December, 1738, when it was arranged to  
1739 hold a meeting at Galashiels on 3rd January, 1739. On the appointed day twenty members met at Galashiels, who discussed the propriety of changing the place of meeting. It was finally arranged that the brethren should meet at Galashiels on St  
1740 John's Day. In 1740 the question of a meeting-place was again discussed, when it was agreed to meet at Stow on the next occasion, and afterwards to meet at Galashiels and Stow alternately. When the day arrived for the meeting at Stow, the Galashiels contingent were prevented from attending owing to the stormy state of the weather. There being no minute relating to 1741, it cannot now be determined whether they met  
1742 that year or not, but in 1742 the Masons in Galashiels describe themselves in their minute as a separate Lodge, the entry being to the following effect,—

"GALASHIELS, *January 20th*, 1742.—The Masons of Galashiels, separat from the brethern at Stow, being met day forsd an rols made and marked as follows,"—

Then follow the names of fifteen members.

1753 On the 8th January, 1753, the brethren resident at Selkirk were invited to visit Galashiels, as appears by the following minute,—

“The sd day, a comitie of Masons met, and ordered a letter to be written to the brethren at Selkirk for them to attend at Galashiels upon the seventeen day of the current (month) and ordered the Boxmaster to pay one shilling as their expensis.”

Shortly afterwards it is stated,—

“The sd day it is proposed among the Masons of the Lodge at Galashiels to have our meeting the next St John's Day at Selkirk.”

In accordance with this resolution, the meetings were held  
1763 alternately at Selkirk and Galashiels till St John's Day in 1763, when it was held at Selkirk, and at that date the record ceases.

Notwithstanding the want of official minutes, there is evidence that the Lodge at Galashiels still continued to exist, as  
1794 in 1794 they presented a petition praying to be admitted a branch of the Kilwinning Lodge at Peebles, the reason being that they could not provide the necessary fees to procure a charter. Also, when the foundation stone of the Cloth Hall was  
1795 laid in 1795, it is on record that,—

“The Corporation with a number of patriotic gentlemen walked in procession from the Deacon's to the Cross, and laid the foundation stone with the usual ceremony, then returned to Mrs Craig's and spent the remaining part of the evening in the most convivial manner.”

While the above statement makes no direct mention of the brethren being present, yet the procession, ceremony, and manner of spending the remainder of the evening bear such a striking resemblance to the usual procedure observed by the craft, that there can be little doubt but that the Lodge officiated on that occasion. Additional proof of its existence is given in a more direct form by an entry in the revenue account of the Cloth Hall, where it is recorded that on one occasion five shillings were received from the Masons for its use on St John's Day.

1816 The charter of the Lodge dates from 1816, and in that year the constitution was reformed and a friendly society established, which lasted till 1836, when it was dissolved and the funds divided, each member receiving £4, 9s. At that date the number of original members amounted to fifteen, which was shortly afterwards increased to fifty. In 1817 a movement was initiated for the erection of a lodge, but the project fell through. In 1823 the amount of entry money for honorary members was reduced from fifteen shillings to eleven shillings.

1827 On the 2nd February, 1827, a Lodge was held at St Boswells Green, of which the following is the minute *verbatim*,—

“At a meeting of the Lodge caled this Night to Tak unto conseadrashon a leatter from Brother George Knox, Saint Bosels Grean, as to the propray-eaty of Going theur to mack four new Bretheren, and the votes being Taken, it was Resolved to Go. And that the fees from the New Bretheren Was to be Taken and added to the founds of our Lodge, and that the Deputashon shall Consist of Five of the Bretheren, and that Each Brother shall be alowd 3s Each and 5s for a Cart, and that the Nint of this Month is the Day fixed for the Going Down.”

While no mention is made in the Lodge minute-book regarding the laying of the foundation stone of the Gas Works at Galashiels, it is recorded in the minutes of the Stow Lodge, that in the month of June, 1834, arrangements were made to send a deputation to assist in the ceremony. There were nine names entered as composing the deputation, and, in order to insure their attendance, they subscribed to the following agreement,—

“Should any of the undersigned Deputation fail to come forward, they are liable to a fine of three shillings and sixpence for each failer.”

1837 In 1837 the Lodge laid the foundation stone of Ladhope Chapel, and in 1843 it officiated in a similar capacity in connection with Ladhope Free Church. It also laid the foundation stone of the Galashiels Water Company's works in the same year; and, on this occasion, animated by the beneficial results that were expected to arise from the introduction of water, John Milne, baker, presented each of the brethren with a substantial pie.



1846 About 1846 the Lodge ceased to pay its dues to the Grand Lodge, and in 1851 it assisted in laying the foundation stone in connection with Sheddon Park, Kelso.

1852 Dr Tweedie was elected R.W.M. in 1852, but the members had evidently lost all interest in the work, as the following explanatory note is inserted in the minutes by the R.W.M.,—

“ Since the last meeting as inserted, the Lodge gradually fell off; B. W. Paterson, in whose house the Lodge was held, died. The Masonic property, contained in the chest of the Lodge, was removed to the R.W.M.’s house, and up to the date as below, not a single inquiry was made, not a meeting requested; so that the Masonry in Galashiels for a period of seven years continued DEAD, DEAD, DEAD. 1858.”

A successful effort to resuscitate the Lodge was made by Dr Tweedie shortly afterwards.

1860 In September, 1860, the Lodge assisted at the laying of the foundation stones of the Public Hall and Corn Exchange. In 1861 an attempt was made to re-establish the benefit society, which proved a failure; but the Lodge continued to flourish under the reign of Adam Thomson, R.W.M.

1876 In 1876 a movement was commenced for the purpose of providing a Masonic Hall, and the brethren formed themselves into a limited liability company with a capital of £3000 in shares of £1 each. The ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the hall was performed in the presence of a large gathering of the inhabitants of the town, and about thirty Lodges were represented on the occasion. The proceedings were opened with prayer by the Chaplain. Brother Adam Thomson then presented a silver trowel to Brother Inglis of Torsonce, Provincial Grand Master for Peebles and Selkirk shires. The stone, within which had been deposited the usual documents, &c., was laid with all Masonic honours, and at the conclusion of the ceremony the brethren, to the number of 200, dined in the Public Hall, Brother Inglis presiding.

Since that date the records of the Lodge are entirely confined to routine work, possessing no interest to the general public.

The following list comprises the Right Worshipful Masters of the Lodge since 1816,—

- |                              |                            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1816-17, Robert Weir.        | 1852-59, Dr A. C. Tweedie. |
| 1818-19, John Paterson.      | 1860, William Fraser.      |
| 1820-21, John Hislop.        | 1860, Peter Sanderson.     |
| 1822-23, James Stirling.     | 1861, Thomas Finlay.       |
| 1824-25, Andrew Hislop.      | 1862, George Gray.         |
| 1826-27, Thomas Clapperton.  | 1863-65, Adam Thomson.     |
| 1828-29, James Riddell.      | 1866-69, Robert Scott.     |
| 1830, William Wood.          | 1870, George Gray.         |
| 1831-34, James Riddell.      | 1871-72, James D. Nisbet.  |
| 1835-36, Henry Beveridge.    | 1873, John Ronald.         |
| 1837, Robert Oliver.         | 1874-77, Adam Thomson.     |
| 1838, Robert Weir.           | 1878, James Hepburn.       |
| 1839, Alexander Mitchell.    | 1879-80, William Liddle.   |
| 1840, James Riddell.         | 1881-83, Andrew Crosbie.   |
| 1841-42, John B. Weir.       | 1884, Robert Hogg.         |
| 1843-44, Alexander Mitchell. | 1885-86, William Lawson.   |
| 1845, Thomas Laidlaw.        | 1887, Edward Pratt Evatt.  |
| 1846-47, Robert Turnbull.    | 1888, Robert Berry.        |
| 1848, Robert Weir.           | 1889, Stephen Oliver.      |
| 1849-51, Robert Oliver.      | 1890-96, William Lawson.   |

## CHAPTER II.

### THE GALASHIELS SUBSCRIPTION LIBRARY.

1797 **T**HE first library in the town was founded by Dr Douglas in 1797, and was termed the Galashiels Subscription Library. The first minute-book is lost; the first entry in that yet existing is dated 20th November, 1827. The rules provided that members had to pay an entrance fee of five shillings, besides an annual subscription of four shillings. Those falling in arrears for eighteen months were expelled, and fines were levied upon those who failed to attend the annual meeting, or who allowed a non-member the use of a book belonging to the Library. No books hostile to revealed religion or of an immoral tendency, nor those treating on divinity, law, physic, or politics could be acquired unless ordered by a majority of members at a general meeting. The Library was open every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, between the hours of nine and ten, morning; two and three, afternoon; and six to eight in the evening.

The Library was originally kept in the Old Town, and William Hislop was librarian. When it was located there, Sir Walter Scott was a frequent visitor, and, in answer to some question regarding it, David Thomson thus replied,—

“ We hae nae mony books in vogue,  
As you'll see by the catalogue,  
In truth our funds are rather spare,  
At present we can do nae mair,  
We're ruined quite in oor finances  
Wi' your bewitching, famed romances.”

On the removal of the Hislops to Bridge Street, William Gill was appointed librarian, and the books were transferred to Overhaugh Street. It would have been interesting to

- learn the nature and class of books in demand in the early years of the Library. The first mentioned list of new books
- 1827 occurs in 1827, when the following works were acquired:—*The London Mechanics' Magazine*, the third volume of *Byron's Works*, *Tales of a Grandfather*, *Chalmers' Pictures of Scotland*, *Travels and Voyages of Columbus*, *Nicholson's Mechanic*, and *Gill's History of Greece*. What remuneration the librarian
- 1837 received is not stated till 1837, when it was fixed at £5, 10s per annum. In 1840 Mr Gill resigned on account of the members calling upon him for books at any time that suited their own convenience. Finding no one willing to undertake the duty, the committee requested Mr Gill to continue in office, which he did on condition that his salary was raised to £7. The members of committee were William Kemp, president; Robert Paterson, James Stirling, Robert Traquair, James Brown, Thomas Gill, and William Tait, clerk.
- 1843 In 1843 there were 150 members, and in 1847 the salary of the librarian was increased to £10, 13s. In 1847 Mr Gill again resigned, and Edward Gray, painter, High Street, fulfilled the duties for the sum of £8 annually. Owing to a decrease in membership, the committee decided to admit readers on payment of one shilling and sixpence quarterly. The magazines read in 1850 were *The Dublin University Magazine*, *Blackwood's*, *Tait's*, *Edinburgh Review*, and *Hogg's Instructor*. There were at this time one hundred and two members and thirty-nine readers. Notwithstanding the large additions made to the number of books, the membership declined, till in
- 1854 1854 it had fallen to eighty-four and sixteen readers. With the view of attracting members, the entry money was reduced to two
- 1859 shillings and sixpence, but this proved of no avail. In 1859 the committee resolved to wind up the Library affairs and divide the books, all members in arrears being debarred from participating in the division. The number of books amounted to 3000, which were put up in lots corresponding to the number of members. A ballot took place, and the Library was dissolved, a considerable number of the volumes finding their way into the Mechanics' Library.

## THE MECHANICS' INSTITUTE AND LIBRARY.

1837 This institution was inaugurated in 1837 in the following manner,—a temperance soiree was held in the Commercial Inn assembly room on the 5th October, 1837. Over 200 persons were present, with the Rev. Alexander Paterson, preacher, in the chair. The meeting was addressed by Mr Dodds from Gattonside, who spoke at length upon the advantages to be derived from Mechanics' Institutes. At the conclusion of the speech, Dr McDougall pledged himself that measures should be taken at once for the immediate formation of such an institution.

Owing to the first minute-book being lost, there is no record of the proceedings for the first eleven years. On the 4th  
1849 December, 1849, it is recorded that the session was opened with an address from the parish minister, the Rev. Kenneth M. Phin. The syllabus of lectures included the following,—the Rev. James Smith, M.A., minister of Ladhope, subject, "Natural Philosophy;" Dr Weir, "Chemistry;" Thomas Walker, "Railways;" Rev. Mr Nichol, Galashiels Free Church, "Astronomy;" and Richard Watson, "The Steam Engine."

1851 In 1851 William Forsyth was president, and Edward Gray librarian. At this time a proposal was made to acquire the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, but the majority of the committee opposed the idea. The list of new books ordered at this date consisted of,—*The Old Red Sandstone*, *Electro Magnetism*, *Theory of Human Progression*, *Philosophy of Education*, *Literature of Europe*, *Artisans and Machinery*, *Disquisition on Government*, and *Philosophy and Phrenology*. The lecturers for the session 1851-52 were the Rev. K. M. Phin, opening lecture; Dr McDougall, two lectures on the Fine Arts; Rev. James Smith, M.A., two lectures on "Natural Philosophy;" Rev. Mr Gunion, Hawick, "Biography;" Dr Boyd, "Physiology;" James Walker, "Machinery and Wages;" Rev. Mr Campbell, Melrose, "The Jesuits, their principles and practice;" Rev. James Fettes, Ladhope Free Church, closing lecture.

As the council were opposed to the introduction of any religious or political topic, at their request Mr Campbell changed his subject to "Bacon and his Philosophy."

The original rules of the Institute have been lost. A  
1852 revision took place in 1852, when they were considerably modified. The fee constituting membership was three shillings annually, the prices for admission to the lectures being fourpence for front seats, and twopence for back seats, or one shilling and twopence for the course. At this time there were eighty members, who were encouraged by the receipt of the following donations,—Mr Broadwood, Pavilion, £5; Mr Hope-Scott of Abbotsford, £10, besides eighty volumes of valuable books; Mr Lockhart, M.P., £5; Lord Henry Kerr, £5; and Hugh Scott of Gala, £5.

1853 In 1853 one or two of the local ministers declined to take any part in the work of the session, on the ground that the parish minister was specially favoured in delivering the opening lecture. Mr Phin had lectured and taken an active part in the work of the Institute years before these worthies had acknowledged its existence; but, when their objections came to his ears, he intimated his reluctance to open the session as usual in case injury should be done to the Institute. In these circumstances Mr Hope-Scott of Abbotsford delivered the inaugural address. Thinking that all reasonable objections had been removed, the committee again approached those whose dignity had been ruffled by the fancied slight, but to no purpose. With the view of removing any possible objection, the council agreed that on the next occasion the senior minister in the town be requested to open the session, the others taking their turn according to seniority.

1854 In 1854 the committee was again gratified by receiving the following subscriptions in aid of the funds of the Institute, viz.,—Duke of Buccleuch, £5; Lord Henry Ker, £5; A. E. Lockhart, M.P. for the county of Selkirk, £5; J. C. Elliot, M.P. for Roxburghshire, £5; Hugh Scott of Gala, £5; John Murray of Philiphaugh, £5; J. R. Hope-Scott

Abbotsford, £5; H. F. Broadwood, The Pavilion, £5; and others.

- 1855 In 1855 William Goodfellow was appointed librarian at a salary of £6 per annum. With the view of stimulating a taste for reading, the fee for readers only was reduced to one shilling per quarter. In a report by the librarian it is stated that

“4,000 volumes were read during the year, the books most in demand being history, travels, and poetry; and a better selection of tales and light literature would give satisfaction to the majority of the readers.”

- 1864 In 1864 the rules were again revised and the fee lowered to ten shillings for honorary and five shillings for ordinary members. Persons under twenty-one years of age had to pay three shillings per annum, and donors of £10 were to be life members. The Institute struggled on in the midst of increasing difficulties, caused by the want of public interest in its affairs; evidently the energy and enthusiasm that characterized its earlier years had evaporated. In these circumstances, new features were introduced and radical changes effected. Had this been done on popular lines at an earlier stage the Institute might have continued to flourish; but, as it proved, the effort came too late.
- 1869 In 1869 the fees were again reduced, but no benefit resulted, and the question arose regarding the continuance of the struggle in the face of an increasing deficit. David Craighead was appointed librarian in place of Mr Gray, who had resigned. A change
- 1870 of office-bearers infused new life into the Institute, and in 1870 a balance of £10 was at their credit. This, however, only proved an expiring flicker, as it again fell off to such an extent that, at the
- 1873 annual meeting in 1873, it was decided to wind up the Institute and hand over the assets to the Free Library.

The lectures, however, were continued, as hitherto they had been self-supporting. These were of a varied character, and had departed from the solid instruction that distinguished them in the earlier years of the Institute. They now consisted largely of such subjects as recitals of poetry and music, readings and recitations, wit and wisdom of Scottish song, humorous reminiscences of things and people, Yankee humour, &c. Lectures were also

delivered by the clergy and others belonging to the town.  
1893 The lectures were maintained till 1893 with varying success, when a deficit of £65 caused their collapse also. This debt, however, was liquidated by the liberality of several local gentlemen.

#### THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

1871 The first suggestion of a Public Library was made in 1871, the occasion being the opening lecture by Dr Gloag of that session of the Mechanics' Institute. At that meeting the chair was occupied by Robert Cornish, who, acting on the suggestion of the council of the Institute, introduced the idea of providing a suitable library and reading-room. He stated that the council of the Institute would be happy to co-operate with any parties favourable to the suggestion he had been instructed to throw out.

In the course of the lecture, which dealt largely with the same subject, Dr Gloag strongly advocated the formation of a Public Library. He stated that there was a Library Act by which towns could provide themselves with such an institution at a very small cost. Galashiels was the first among the Border towns for commercial prosperity, it should not lag behind any in intellectual life. The lecturer also suggested that a museum should be attached to the Library, were such an institution erected.

Shortly afterwards the council of the Mechanics' Institute and others interested formed themselves into a committee to carry out this suggestion, and, at a public meeting of those favourable to the scheme, Dr Gloag moved the following resolution,—

“That this meeting is of opinion that a Free Library, reading-room, and museum, would be of great practical value to the town of Galashiels and neighbourhood generally, and that a committee be elected consisting of the council of the Mechanics' Institute and such others as this meeting may appoint, who shall collect all information upon the practical working of similar institutions where they already exist, and report to a future meeting.”



The motion was seconded by William Brown, Galahill, and unanimously adopted, and a committee was appointed to carry out the resolution. At another meeting held shortly afterwards reports were read regarding the working of Free Libraries in other towns, and it was resolved to lay the whole matter before the ratepayers. A movement was also originated to procure subscriptions for the purpose of building the Library, subject to the town adopting the Libraries Act. A deputation waited upon some of the larger employers of labour in the town, and procured subscriptions to the amount of £1120, which were shortly afterwards increased to £2100. On the 2nd 1872 March, 1872, a public meeting was held at which Sheriff Pattison presided, when the Libraries Act was adopted. It was discovered, however, that this method of procedure was illegal, as the Provost of the burgh was the proper person to have presided at such a meeting. Another meeting was therefore held on the 25th April, at which Provost Hall presided, and the Act was adopted.

The Library Committee was then appointed by the Town Council, ten members from their own body and ten chosen from the householders. John Dick was appointed librarian.

While all concerned did their duty, it is only just to record that, besides Robert Cornish and Dr Gloag, others wrought hard for the success of the scheme. Those included Peter Eadie, now of Paisley; James Wilson, editor of *The Border Advertiser*; William Brown, Galahill; Dr Somerville, Adam Cochrane, Fernieknowe; Rev. Walter Brown, Rev. A. A. Jenkins, Robert A. Sanderson, Byethorn; and Bailie Monroe, to whom, as convener of the Library Committee, fell a large share of the work.

The building cost £1800, and the balance of the subscriptions was expended in the purchase of books, which numbered 2200 volumes in all departments of literature. The bye-laws were so framed as to admit of all householders having easy access to the Library, special arrangements being made in the interest of lodgers.

1874 On the 9th October, 1874, the Library was formally opened by George O. Trevelyan, M.P. Provost Laidlaw occupied the chair, and Dr Gloag opened the proceedings with prayer. After short speeches had been made by the Provost, Mr Trevelyan, Bailie Monroe, and Mr Cramond, solicitor, the proceedings in the Library were brought to a close. An adjournment was then made to the East United Presbyterian Church, where Mr Trevelyan delivered the inaugural address. At the conclusion of the address, Adam Cochrane, jun., in the name of the Library Committee, thanked him for his services on the occasion.

1876 In 1876 Mr Dick, the librarian, died, and the committee appointed Mrs Dick to carry on the duties on the same terms.

1886 On the 30th December, 1886, a public meeting was held to consider a proposal by the Rev. Dr Gloag to make an addition to the Library and also form a museum in connection with it. At the meeting Dr Gloag made a statement regarding the success of the Library, and advocated the addition of a museum to make it complete. At the same time he offered his collection of fossils, coins, &c., as a gift, to form the nucleus of the proposed collection. The meeting was adjourned till the 13th January, 1887, when the idea of commemorating the Queen's Jubilee by an extension of the Library was mooted. After the matter had been discussed, Dr Somerville moved that Dr Gloag's offer be accepted, and that the Library be extended so as to afford the necessary room for a museum. This was seconded by John Turnbull, accountant, Royal Bank of Scotland, and supported by A. L. Cochrane, Kingsknowes. Benjamin Kirk, master of St Peter's School, moved an amendment, that the establishment of public baths would prove of greater public utility. This was seconded by Dr Hardesty and supported by Richard Lees, Town Clerk. Eventually the amendment was withdrawn, and Dr Somerville's motion became the finding of the meeting.

At the next meeting of the Library Committee Provost Hall produced a plan of the proposed extension, showing space for the museum, which, being generally approved of, was handed

over to the Town Council for consideration. Owing to the want of sufficient room for a museum worthy of the name, they abandoned the idea, while they approved of the plan for the extension of the Library.

1889 In 1889 the building was completed and formally opened on the 30th November. The ceremony was largely attended. Ex-Provost Hall presided, and was supported by Provost Brown and Alexander L. Brown, M.P. The chairman briefly stated the object of the meeting, and A. L. Brown formally handed over the addition to the Library to Provost Brown as representing the Town Council. Provost Brown, in the name of the Council, thanked the subscribers; and, in response to an invitation, Dr Gloag commended the institution, and indicated the class of literature that was calculated to promote the spiritual and intellectual life of the community.

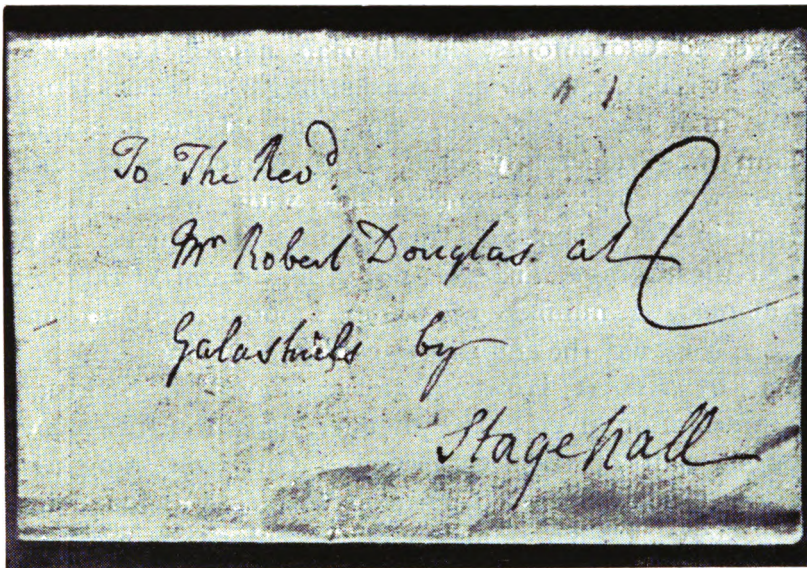
Since that time the Library and Reading Room have continued to flourish and occupy a high position in the public estimation, the number of volumes being now 6600.

Besides these principal institutions, there have been others of a smaller nature, composed principally of circulating libraries kept by booksellers, besides congregational and Sabbath school libraries.

### CHAPTER III.

#### POST OFFICE.

1791 **I**N 1791 Dr Douglas stated that the want of a Post Office was much felt in Galashiels, the nearest offices being situated at Melrose, Selkirk, and Stagehall. Despite the fact that the latter was about seven miles distant from Galashiels, it was regarded as the most convenient on account of the number of coal and lime carts which afforded frequent opportunities for having letters forwarded to their respective addresses. At that date all letters to Galashiels were addressed "near Melrose," "by Selkirk," or "by Stagehall."



FAC-SIMILE OF LETTER ADDRESSED TO DR DOUGLAS IN 1793.

The first Post Office in Galashiels was established in Elm Row. The postmaster was a merchant named James Brown, who also had the charge of the public weighing-machine. In all

probability the letters would be called for, or delivered at some favourable opportunity. One of Mr Brown's family had to walk to Melrose in the morning and Clovenfords in the afternoon for the mails, and for this service the remuneration amounted to three shillings and sixpence per week.

At what date Mr Brown was appointed postmaster cannot be determined, nor the date when the Post Office was transferred to the Market Place at the foot of High Street. In 1822 William Haldane was postmaster. At that time letters from the south came by means of the Carlisle and Edinburgh coach, by way of Selkirk, Yair, Clovenfords, and Crosslee; a messenger being despatched to Clovenfords for the mail bag. The rates of postage were fourpence to Melrose, sevenpence to Edinburgh, one shilling and a penny halfpenny to London, and two shillings and fivepence to America.

1822      An incident occurred on the 30th February, 1822, which is unique in the history of the Post Office in Galashiels. The messenger to Clovenfords, an old man named Hopkirk, was attacked at Kilnknowe by an armed stranger as he was returning with the mail bag. The old man, being at the mercy of his assailant, was reluctantly obliged to deliver up his charge, together with his coat and plaid, with which the thief made off in the darkness. On reaching Galashiels, Hopkirk reported the outrage, and the Baron Bailie, Mr Craig, raised the villagers, a number of whom scoured the surrounding district. Next day the culprit was captured at Mack's Mill, near Gordon, by Robert Howden, and conveyed to Selkirk jail. From information given by the prisoner, the authorities recovered the letters, half of them unopened. One containing a £20 note, said to be addressed to Deacon Walker, was found hidden under a stone. What punishment the culprit received cannot now be ascertained.

1832      In 1832 there was only one delivery daily, but letters could be had by calling at the office. In 1837 the letters from the south were received at mid-day, and despatched every morning at 10.30. Those from the north and west of Scotland were

received at 10.30 A.M., and despatched at noon. Letters from St Boswells and Melrose arrived per "Sandy Cumming" on horse-back every morning at 10, and were despatched at midday.

1847 In 1847 an arrangement was entered into with the proprietors of the "Engineer" coach, and an additional mail was carried, that for the south leaving at 8.25 A.M., and for the north at 4.25 P.M.

Up to 1853 one postman did duty for the whole town, but at that date the Police Commissioners made representations to the Postmaster-General, with the view of accelerating the delivery. A second postman was then engaged, and two deliveries per day established. In 1860 a wall box was placed in Abbotsford Road and a pillar box at the south end of the wooden bridge between Buckholmside and Wilderhaugh.

1863 In 1863 Miss Haldane, postmistress (who had succeeded her father), resigned, and the Post Office was removed from the old Market Place to a building situated in High Street, at the east corner of Sime Place and High Street, under the charge of Robert Dickson, draper. It remained there till 1865, when it was transferred to Bank Street, and John Creelman, stationer, was appointed postmaster.

1883 At Mr Creelman's death, Mr Sandison was appointed his successor, and in 1883 more commodious premises were secured in High Street. Mr Sandison remained till 1889, when Mr Chapman succeeded to the office.

The following table will serve to show the vast increase in postal business since 1870, there being no record previous to that date,—

1870.	1896.
No. of letters delivered weekly, 8000.	No. of letters delivered weekly, 36,000.
Registered letters annually, 350.	Registered letters annually, 4749.
Money Orders issued annually, 7128.	Money and Postal Orders, 50,379.
Transactions in Savings Bank, 413.	Transactions in Savings Bank, 1586.
Telegrams out and in, ... 5946.	Telegrams out and in, ... 63,000.
Value of stamps sold, ... £1800.	Value of stamps sold, ... £10,000.
Number of staff, ... 11.	Number of staff, ... 36.
Wall boxes, ... 3.	3 sub-offices, 11 wall boxes; 106 letter bags, and 28 parcel mails daily.

Representation had been made to the authorities regarding the necessity that existed for increased accommodation in order to cope with the rapidly growing business. The result was that the Post Office at the head of Channel Street was erected in 1894, and formally opened by Provost Dickson, who entertained a representative gathering of townsmen in honour of the occasion.

## CHAPTER IV.

### OUTDOOR SPORTS.

**I**N the earlier years of the present century out-door sports were freely indulged in by both old and young, these being principally hand and foot ball, shinty, and curling. With the exception of curling, these games required a good area of open ground, and used to be played on the farm of Hollybush, near to the end of Gala Hill, up to the date when the ground was brought under tillage. In consequence of the cultivation of the land in the vicinity of the town and the feuing of the various haughs, suitable fields began to be difficult to procure, and the games fell into desuetude. In those days there were no clubs in existence, and the balls were generally presented by parties on the occasion of their marriage, or bought by means of subscriptions amongst those taking part in the game. There was no restriction regarding the number of players, provided some effort was made to maintain the opposing parties as equally matched as possible.

#### GALA CURLING CLUB.

1823 This is the oldest club in the town, having been instituted in 1823. Whether the game was played on a private pond or on Jenny Sharp's Moss, which was the general resort in frosty weather, is not known, but for many years past the club has played upon a private pond within Gala policy, where a new club house was erected in 1884.

#### GALA WATER CRICKET CLUB.

Cricket was introduced by a few Englishmen who came to work in the town, principally through the exertions of one of



their number named Cornelius Holmes. A few young men were attracted by the novelty of the game, and play was carried on in a field on Hollybush farm.

The presentation of a suitable field by Major Scott of Gala gave a great impetus to the game, and the first club was inaugurated on the 17th June, 1853, under the name of the Gala Water Cricket Club. In the first year of its existence it played its first match against Selkirk, and won by thirty-seven runs. The return match was played at Selkirk, when the local club scored fifty-four runs in the first innings, Selkirk being disposed of for forty-seven. In the second innings Galashiels scored forty runs, but, owing to darkness, the stumps were drawn, Selkirk having scored thirty-five for six wickets. The following were the names of the local team on that occasion:—Cornelius Holmes, an underhand bowler; Joseph Boothroyd, who introduced overhand bowling into the district; James Forster, James Arrol, Archibald Scott of Gala, Henry Monteith, George Holmes, James Mack, Edward Bates, John Cuthbertson, and Peter Crichton.

1873 In 1873 the club was obliged to vindicate its right to the control and use of the Cricket Ground against a claim for its joint-occupation by parties who wished to utilise it for foot-racing. The club lodged a petition with the Sheriff, requesting interdict against those parties, which set forth

“That betting prevailed to a considerable extent at these races, thereby rendering their tendency immoral, and creating vicious and baneful habits among the young men who attended them.”

The Sheriff granted the prayer of the petition, and perpetual interdict was declared.

In a match against Innerleithen in 1874, on the local ground, the first two batsmen belonging the home team successfully resisted all attempts to separate them and succeeded in compiling a score of 204 between them, when the stumps were drawn. In 1882 the club acquired new ground at Mossilee, which it still occupies.

## GALASHIELS BOWLING CLUB.

The idea of forming a bowling club was first mooted in 1856. A meeting of those interested was called to consider the proposal, at which a committee was appointed to make the necessary inquiries. The movement did not take practical shape till 1858, when £50 were subscribed and the club was formed, William Paterson being the first president. Suitable ground was acquired at the top of the bank above the end of Hall Street, and a green was laid out by William Kemp, gas manager, and was opened on the 2nd July, 1859, in the presence of a large company, who had assembled to witness the novel game.

The first match was played against Selkirk on 13th August, 1859, when Galashiels won by four shots. A fortnight later the return match took place at Selkirk, when the local team was again victorious by six shots.

In 1883 the club opened a new bowling green in Scott Crescent, where it continues to flourish, having recently erected a pavilion for the use of its members, who in 1896 numbered ninety.

## WAVERLEY BOWLING CLUB.

1883 When the Galashiels Club went to Scott Crescent, their old green was acquired by a club consisting principally of working men, and styled the Waverley Bowling Club. The number of members in 1896 was eighty, the highest number hitherto attained.

## ABBOTSFORD BOWLING CLUB.

In laying out the ground for the enlargement of the Public Park, a bowling green was provided for public use. After a short trial it was found unsatisfactory, and those who had been in the habit of playing there formed themselves into the above club, and acquired a green adjoining the Hospital.

## GALA FOOTBALL CLUB.

1877 This club originated on 24th September, 1877. At that time the association was a joint one, embracing members from Melrose and Galashiels. The numbers from Melrose were thirty-two ordinary and five honorary, while Galashiels had twenty-four ordinary and seven honorary members.

The club was no sooner organised than a spirit of dissent broke out, which resulted in the secession of the Galashiels contingent, who now play in the Cricket Ground at Mossilee.

## GALA TENNIS CLUB.

At the formation of this club in March, 1883, ground was leased at Mossilee from the Gala Cricket Club, which was laid out at a cost of over £60.

The first office-bearers were:—Patron, John H. F. K. Scott of Gala; president, Rev. W. Whyte Smith; vice-president, James Brown; hon. secretary and treasurer, E. M. Sanderson.

Originally the entry money was fixed at £1, the annual subscription being 10s. Season and county members were admitted upon an annual payment of fifteen shillings, but they had no voice in the management.

Owing to the exposed situation, it was soon found that the Cricket Field was unsuitable for the game. Accordingly, Langhaugh Garden was acquired upon a lease, and the ground was laid out and a pavilion erected at a cost of £135. In order to meet the increased outlay, the annual subscription was raised to £1, 1s for gentlemen, and fifteen shillings for ladies; season members, £1, 5s; county members, fifteen shillings, and honorary members, ten shillings.

In 1895 the Club consisted of seventy-eight members—forty-two ladies and thirty-six gentlemen.

## GALASHIELS GOLF CLUB.

The first golf club in connection with the town had its origin in 1885, and was named the Galashiels Golf Club. The

moving spirit in the establishment of the game was William Dunlop, Glendinning Terrace School, who for several years acted as captain, secretary, and treasurer. A course of nine holes was obtained free of rent from Mr Brunton of Ladhope, which extended along the hill side from Appletreecleaves to Ladhope meadow and back. The largest number of members in connection with the club was 148. The entry money was five shillings each, besides an annual payment of a similar amount.

In 1895 Captain Pringle of Torwoodlee offered the club the use of Torwoodlee Haugh, extending to thirty-seven acres; but as his terms made no provision for fixity of tenure, the club by a majority decided to continue at Ladhope.

#### TORWOODLEE GOLF CLUB.

As Torwoodlee Haugh was a much more desirable situation for the formation of a golf course than Ladhope, the minority of the Galashiels Club entered into communication with Captain Pringle, and acquired the Haugh on Mr Pringle's terms, and immediately afterwards a course of nine holes was laid out by Willie Park, jun., Musselburgh.

The number of members is 130, the payments being,—for gentlemen, £1, 1s, and for ladies and youths under seventeen years of age, seven shillings and sixpence annually.

Appearances point to an amalgamation of the two clubs in the near future, as the terms upon which the Torwoodlee Course is held, will, in all probability, be adjusted to the satisfaction of all parties, and, on that taking place, the Galashiels Golf Club will cease to exist.

## CHAPTER V.

### BRASS BANDS.

1834 **T**HE first brass band in the town, of which there is any record, originated in 1834. The instruments were procured second-hand, at a cost of £30, which was defrayed by public subscription, raised principally through the exertions of Mr Oliver, landlord of the "Tod Inn." The teacher was an English weaver named Abraham Ackroyd, and the practice room was an old unoccupied dwelling-house in Damside.

On the occasion of their first public appearance they marched from the Mill Brig up Bank Street, crossing on to the old Peebles road at Waulkmillhead Mill, then up the south side of the mill lade to Botany Mill, where they halted at the door of Henry Sanderson, manufacturer, who had been the most liberal subscriber to their funds. After a few tunes had been played, Mr and Mrs Sanderson made their appearance at the door, and thanked them; and, in accordance with the hospitality common in those days, the servant girl handed round refreshments consisting of whisky and shortbread.

The instruments in use at that time consisted of four clarionets, one piccolo, two bugles, one trombone, one serpent, one bassoon, one trumpet, one French horn, and a big drum.

The band collapsed after but a short existence, owing principally to the players leaving for other districts.

1852 About 1852 another band was started; the first conductor was Harry Bailie, who was succeeded by Mr Thomson. The latter held the post a short time, when he gave place to David Cunningham. Mr Cunningham remained for some years, and lost his life by an accident at Wilderbank Mill. He was succeeded by an Englishman named Frank Auty. At that time the services of the Town's Band were frequently required

in connection with the local Volunteers at battalion drills and inspections. On one occasion of this nature, which took place in a field near Melrose, the band was stationed at the gate for the purpose of playing a march while the battalion entered the field. Marching time in those days appeared to be but imperfectly understood, as it was not long before each company was stepping out to a time of its own. On observing this, the Adjutant galloped up to the gate and informed Frank that it was a march that was wanted, not a polka tune. They started afresh, but had not played many bars till the Adjutant again returned, and ordered them out of the field, remarking as he rode off, that "When he asked for a march they might have understood it was not the Dead March in *Saul* that he meant."

Mr Auty was succeeded by Mr Crosbie, from Leeds, who was connected with the band for a short time, when he died, his place being filled by Mr Johnstone, who remained for the subsequent sixteen years. Mr Johnstone, on retiring, was presented with a silver cornet.

Thomas Moore was the next conductor, and under his tuition the band has reached a degree of excellence never before attained. In the various competitions in which they have taken part they have always maintained a creditable appearance. But their crowning triumph was won in 1888, at an amateur brass band contest held in Glasgow, where they carried off first honours, the test piece being an arrangement of Wallace's *Maritana*.

## CHAPTER VI.

### GALASHIELS CO-OPERATIVE STORE COMPANY.

1839 **I**N 1839 twenty-eight working men belonging to the town started the above Company for the purpose of procuring their provisions at wholesale prices. At that date the value of the shares was ten shillings each, and out of the company only two of them held two shares, the remainder having one only. Non-members were not allowed to participate in the benefits, which were strictly confined to shareholders. The president of the Society was William Sanderson, with Alexander Johnstone as secretary. There were also a treasurer and a committee consisting of six members, whose duty consisted in purchasing the goods, which were distributed in accordance with the orders sent in by each member of the Company.

1842 This system was carried on till 1842, when a shop was opened in Overhaugh Street, with a capital of £29. By the end of 1844 the weekly drawings averaged £34. The business soon outgrew the limited accommodation, and new premises were secured in Bank Street. The western branch was opened in High Street on the 15th June, 1845. In 1852 an effort was made to purchase the property known as "Nannie Knox's," which stood on the site now occupied by the Royal Bank, and though a majority of the members were in favour of the transaction being carried out, the minority proved so troublesome that the idea was abandoned. In 1854 the share capital amounted to £1019, 10s 11½d, and the dividend for that year was elevenpence halfpenny per pound sterling.

1881 In 1881 it was agreed to employ a secretary who should devote his whole time to the service of the Society. At that date the sales had increased to £29,840 per annum, the dividend being two shillings and sixpence per pound.

1886 In 1886 a fleshing branch was opened. At this period the number of shareholders was 1117, and the dividend three shillings per pound. It was resolved to purchase the property at the corner of High Street and Roxburgh Street, and erect business premises. This was done at a cost of £13,000. In 1896 the share capital amounts to £26,490, 8s 11d, the annual turnover to £50,060, 15s 3d. The number of members is 1289, and the dividend three shillings and eightpence per pound.

#### WAVERLEY STORE COMPANY.

1866 In 1866 a feeling of dissatisfaction arose among some of the members belonging to the Galashiels Co-operative Society, with the result that they agreed to form another Company to be called the Waverley Society. In 1867 the first shop was opened in Bank Street, but, owing to the premises becoming too limited for the trade, a removal was made to Channel Street in 1871. In 1877 the Company acquired property to the value of £2800 for the purpose of forming a site for suitable premises. The building was completed and opened in 1882, and in 1886, owing to the addition of new departments, it was found necessary to still further extend the buildings.

In 1896 the number of members is 1440, the annual turnover £56,764, 12s 10d, and the dividend amounts to three shillings and sixpence per pound.

#### GALASHIELS CO-OPERATIVE COAL SOCIETY.

1879 This society was established in 1879, with a membership of sixty. In 1895 the membership had increased to 813, with a share capital of £1334, 2s. The sales amount to £2896, 15s, and the gross profits to £497.

The society pays a premium of two shillings and sixpence per £ to its employees, the same rate as that paid to members on their purchases.



## CO-OPERATIVE BUILDING SOCIETY.

1846 This society commenced in 1846, previous to which date a society had been in existence, whose capital was provided by shares, but there is no record extant regarding it.

The Co-operative Building Society owed its existence to the energy of William Sanderson. Like its predecessor, the minutes of its transactions have been lost, but the cottages in Ladhope Bank owe their erection to its agency. In 1848 there were fifty-four members, the secretary being Thomas Paterson, schoolmaster.

## PROVIDENT BUILDING SOCIETY.

1845 This society was launched in 1845, also under the fostering care of William Sanderson. The number of members who joined it in its first year was thirty-eight. The original managers were Thomas Pringle, chairman; Andrew Hill, treasurer; William Sanderson, secretary; Hugh Lees, writer, law agent; and Adam Stirling, builder, inspector. The amount at the credit of the members for the first year was £122, 13s, and the advances for the same period amounted to £150.

Mr Sanderson acted as treasurer till his death in 1884; the membership at that time had risen to 566, having £44,444, 16s 1d at their credit. The amount advanced on loans to members was £47,228. Mr Sanderson was succeeded by James Hepburn, and under his management the balance sheet for 1895 showed a membership of 652 with £61,125, 3s 3d at their credit, while the amount advanced was £59,760.

## GALASHIELS ECONOMIC BUILDING SOCIETY.

1890 This institution came into existence in 1890, and has a membership of 400; and, being a terminating society, the membership is restricted to that number. It makes advances to its members to the full value of the heritable security, free of interest, and the priority to an advance is established by ballot. The advances

## HISTORY OF GALASHIELS.

1896 up to 1896 amounted to £12,350. Considerable profit earned by the society through the purchase and resale of building shares. The undivided profit at the credit of the members amounts to over £1000, and there is a reserve fund of £300. The officials are William Thom, secretary; R. Lees, solicitor; and William Wood, surveyor.

## CHAPTER VII.

### GALASHIELS FARMERS' CLUB.

**O**WING to the want of minutes, the exact date of the origin of this club is unknown; but it fell into abeyance for some time, and was reconstituted on the 8th April, 1856. The meeting for this purpose was held in the Commercial Hotel, Major Scott of Gala presiding. All those present were enrolled as members of the club for one year, and Hugh Lees, writer, laid before the meeting a draft of rules and regulations proposed by a committee of the members of the previous club, which were adopted. The following gentlemen were elected office-bearers for the first year, viz. :—Major Scott of Gala, president; William Paterson, Ettrickhall, and William Rutherford, writer, Galashiels, vice-presidents; and Hugh Lees, writer, secretary. The committee comprised William Scott, Mossilee; J. Brydon, Netherbarns; James Sanderson, jun., Meigle; and Adam Paterson, Buckholmside.

Meetings are held at regular intervals, at which questions having a practical bearing upon agricultural matters are discussed. In 1893 the club petitioned the Commissioners of the Royal Commission on Agriculture on behalf of the following questions,—“The Agricultural Holdings Act,” “The Marking of Foreign Meat,” “Railway Rates,” “Taxation of Land,” “Loans to Landlords,” “Representation of the Agricultural Interest in Parliament,” “Simplicity of the Transfer of Land.” Latterly lectures have been delivered upon “Tuberculosis and Tuberculin” and “Horseless Carriages and their Relation to Agriculture.” On account of the attempts made by Insurance Companies to raise the rate of insurance for farm stock, this club took the initiative in starting the Farmers’ and Landlords’ Insurance Company in 1895.

## CHAPTER VIII.

### THE 1ST SELKIRK (GALA FOREST) RIFLE VOLUNTEERS.

**I**N consequence of the attitude assumed by France in 1859, it was considered necessary to adopt special measures for the security of Great Britain, and an enthusiastic response was given throughout the country to the call for volunteers for home defence.

1859 With the view of taking part in the national movement, a public meeting was called by requisition, and was held in the Salmon Inn ball-room on the 22d November, 1859. The Chief Magistrate, George Bathgate, occupied the chair, and the movers of the various resolutions regarding the formation of a Volunteer corps were,—Alexander Rutherford, writer; Peter Coldwell, merchant; Adam Thomson, merchant; and Robert Stewart, Town Clerk. The following gentlemen were appointed a committee for the purpose of enrolling Volunteers, honorary members, and obtaining subscriptions, viz.:—Major Scott of Gala, W. H. Hirst, Adam Lees Cochrane, John Pringle, Alexander Fisher, J. E. Sibbald, Adam Thomson, Alexander Rutherford, R. Sanderson, jun.; Robert Stewart, David Shiel, and John Hood, jun. William Turnbull, Royal Bank, Edinburgh, became an honorary member for life by contributing the sum of £10 to the funds of the Company.

At the next meeting it was found that sixty members had been enrolled, and it was decided to adopt the designation of the "Gala Forest Rifles." At that time, owing to the expense, the Volunteers were largely confined to those in better circumstances, as they had to pay an annual subscription of ten shillings, besides the minimum payment of thirty shillings for clothing, the total cost of which was £3, 10s 7d. The balance on behalf of those not in a position to pay the full amount was paid from the funds of the Company.

On the recommendation of Lieutenant-Colonel Lord Polwarth and Sir George Douglas, the grey cloth presently worn was selected for the uniform. Originally the tunic had a red collar with two black stripes and a scarlet stripe round the cuff, also ornamented with black braid across the breast. The trousers had a broad black stripe, with a narrow scarlet stripe in the centre down the side. The belts were of brown leather; the shoulder belt carried a magazine box behind, which held forty rounds of ball cartridge; a smaller one at front attached to the waist belt held twenty loose cartridges. A pouch for cap was attached to the front of the shoulder belt. The caps were extremely liable to be lost from this receptacle, especially if the flap was inadvertently left open during skirmishing drill. The cap was of a French pattern, the same colour as the dress, having a projecting peak and a black and red band.

An armoury was secured, which formerly had done duty as a cell in the police station, situated in the east corner of the Market Square, where the muzzle-loading Enfield rifles, with which the Volunteers were armed at that period, were stored.

The wishes of the Company were consulted in regard to their choice of officers, and a ballot was taken, with the result that Hugh Scott of Gala, late Captain in the Gordon Highlanders, was selected Captain; William Clark, Captain, R.N., Langhaugh, Lieutenant; and Adam Lees Cochrane, manufacturer, Ensign. These names were accordingly submitted to the Lord-Lieutenants of the counties of Roxburgh and Selkirk, who signed the commissions according to the expressed wish of the Company. The non-commissioned officers selected were Alexander Rutherford, Colour-Sergeant; William Sime, Robert F. Fisher, Adam Thomson, Frank Rutherford, and James Dobson, Sergeants; and Robert Stewart, James Cochrane, William Gray, Thomas Wright, and David Nicol, Corporals. Dr George McDougall was appointed Surgeon to the Company.

The services of Sergeant-Instructor Grant, from Dalkeith, were secured to drill the newly-formed Company, the hours of



CAPTAIN COCHRANE

CAPTAIN BROWN

CAPTAIN CLARK

CAPT.

CAPTAIN



drill being from 7 to 8.30 A.M., and from 5 to 6, 7 to 8, and 8 to 9 P.M. For the first year the in-door drill was carried on in the lower flat of a weaving shop in Ladhope Vale, and afterwards in the Corn Exchange, which for some time the directors gave gratuitously, in order to encourage the patriotic spirit which animated the Volunteers. In 1874 the Volunteer Hall was built on a site granted at a nominal feu by Hugh Scott of Gala, so long as it is used as a drill hall.

The swearing in of the Company took place on the 1860 9th April, 1860, in the Abbotsford Arms Hotel, in presence of the commanding officer. The oath was administered by George Bathgate, Chief Magistrate, and Lieutenant Clark, who was a Justice of the Peace. At the conclusion of the business, the Company were joined by a party of the old "Fencibles," who had borne arms in the early years of the century. A letter was also read from William Gill (The Librarian), the last survivor of the little band of Volunteers who, under Lieutenant Craig, marched to Dalkeith at the 1804 "False Alarm" in 1804.

In the early days of the Volunteer movement the 1st Roxburgh and Selkirk Rifle Volunteers, or the Border Rifles as they were termed, consisted of six separate corps. These were located as follows,—1st Roxburgh at Jedburgh, 2nd Roxburgh at Kelso, 3rd Roxburgh at Melrose, 4th Roxburgh at Hawick, 1st Selkirk at Galashiels, and 2nd Selkirk at Selkirk. In 1861 these were combined into an Administrative Battalion under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Lord Polwarth, and this arrangement continued till 1880, when they were consolidated into one corps.

1860 In 1860 the Queen held a levee at St James' Palace, London, at which, along with other representative officers belonging to the newly-raised Volunteer army, Ensign Cochrane had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty.

The number of members in 1860 was eighty-five; there were also thirty-eight honorary members who contributed not less than a guinea each annually to the funds



The first target practice took place at a short range, of about 200 yards, across the old Water Company's reservoir, firing into the ravine at the foot of Watt's Hill. Owing to the pathway to Fernielee crossing the line of fire, the range was found to be dangerous, and was abandoned. Afterwards a range of 900 yards was secured on the side of Meigle Hill, the targets being placed near Fernielee march dyke. This range was found to be inconvenient owing to its distance from the town. A more suitable range, extending to 500 yards, was secured at Galafoot, the target being placed at the foot of the scaur adjoining the newly-erected bridge over Gala. After a short trial this range was also discovered to be unsafe, as an occasional bullet found its way across the Melrose Road. About 1864 the present range was acquired at Mossilee.

The Company was present at the first Volunteer Review held in the Queen's Park, Edinburgh, in 1860, when 21,514 men from all parts of Scotland marched past the Queen. On that occasion seventy-two men of all ranks represented the contingent from Galashiels, of whom thirty still survive. Afterwards the following order was issued,—

“The commanding officer takes the opportunity of expressing his high approval of the condition of the corps at the late review. Their appearance on the field elicited the commendation of the highest military authorities, and their patience under the privations inseparable from the military profession deserves the best thanks of the commanding officer. Their return to Galashiels under the many temptations to partake of the festivities of Edinburgh is, he believes, unexampled among the Volunteers.”

The following was the result of the first shooting competition on record, in which thirty competitors took part; the names given were winners. The bull's-eye counted three, the inner two, and the outer one (standing position),—

Name.		200 Yards.		250 Yards.		Total.		
Alexander Fisher,	...	2	2	2	1	1	2	10
James Stalker,	...	1	1	1	1	1	3	8
Frank Rutherford,	...	0	1	2	1	2	1	7
William Sanderson,	...	1	1	1	0	1	3	7
Robert Stewart,	...	0	1	1	3	1	0	6
William Laidlaw,	...	1	0	1	0	3	1	6

When Sergeant-Instructor Grant left in 1860, the officers engaged the services of Sergeant James Dobson, a member of the Company, who, in 1862, was superseded by Sergeant Thom. He received the appointment from the War Office. A few months afterwards Mr Thom became tenant of the Victoria Hotel, and his services were dispensed with, and Sergeant Dobson was again appointed. The new Instructor was a native of the town, and had served for some years in the Scots Guards. He resigned as Sergeant-Instructor in 1866, and is the only Volunteer in the Border Battalion remaining in the ranks who joined at the formation of the corps in 1859. He now holds the rank of Colour-Sergeant.

- 1861 In 1861 the terms of entry money into the corps were reduced, the annual subscription was abolished, and the maximum payment for uniform fixed at thirty shillings. Shortly afterwards these terms were again lowered to the sum of fifteen shillings, this amount being the price of the trousers, which remained the property of the Volunteer. Latterly, payment of any kind was abolished altogether.
- 1862 In 1862 the brass band belonging to the town, which at that time consisted of fourteen members, offered their services on the condition that they were provided with a uniform at the expense of the Company. This arrangement existed till 1866, when the band declined to continue their services further, except the Company gave a contribution of £15 annually to the band fund. This demand, however, was refused, and the connection came to an end. A flute and drum band in connection with the Company was started about 1866, and existed for some time; but, latterly, a brass band was organised. There are also ambulance and cycle sections belonging to the corps.
- 1863 In 1863 Captain Scott resigned, and Lieutenant Clark became Captain; Ensign Cochrane, Lieutenant; and Colour-Sergeant Sime, Ensign. Sergeant Robert Fisher was promoted to the rank of Colour-Sergeant, in place of Alexander Rutherford, who had retired.

1864 In 1864 the first Capitation Grant was received from Government, which amounted to £76.

1866 The death of Captain Clark occurred in 1866, in the seventieth year of his age. He was born at Torwoodlee in 1796, and entered the Navy in 1810, on board the "Egeria," and subsequently served in various parts of the world. During the course of his career he was the only one of a boat's crew of seven who escaped death from the splinters of a shell. In 1840 he was promoted to the rank of Captain, and in 1865 he attained the rank of Admiral. Owing to the death of his wife and eldest son, which events occurred but a short time previous, his promotion scarcely gratified him, as it came too late to give pleasure to those he had lost. He never recovered his old bearing, while his smile, though kindly as ever, was softened by sadness. He did not long survive to enjoy his new dignity. His last appearance at drill after his promotion is thus referred to in a local publication,—

"Very touching was the scene at the last meeting he had with the men of the Gala Forest Rifles. Accustomed as he was to kindly greetings, the earnest heartiness with which the Volunteers cheered him fairly overcame him. There was so much in their applause that spoke of kindly affection, as well as of admiring respect, that he could not express his feelings. He was too modest to dwell long on his advancement, but he said 'I have now reached the goal of my career, the last step of my promotion. Nothing further can I look for save in that other land to which so many dear friends have gone before me, and which I also long to reach.' His emotion was too great to allow him to say more. Of those present more than one had a struggle to repress the tears that would gather in sympathy with those that bedimmed the eyes of the speaker. For his desired promotion to the other land he had not long to wait; early in the following month of June death read the next name from his roll, and like another noble old hero, to whom his friends often likened him, he answered 'adsum,' and passed 'to where beyond these voices there is peace.'

His life was gentle; and the elements  
So mixed in him, that Nature might stand up  
And say to all the world, 'This was a man.'"

Thirty years have sped since the Gala Forest Rifles followed their gallant old Captain to his resting-place in the Abbey

Churchyard. Still in the hearts of those of his old Company who survive his memory is green. His name has yet power to recall memories of bygone years and the feelings of pride with which they were wont to regard him.

After the death of Captain Clark, Lieutenant Cochrane was promoted to the command of the Company, Ensign Sime to be Lieutenant, and Sergeant Frank Rutherford to Ensign.

When Sergeant Dobson resigned in 1866 Sergeant Graham became Instructor, and in 1867 he was succeeded by Sergeant George Fox. Sergeant Fox is a native of the town, and had enlisted in the 42nd Regiment in 1853. He served in the Crimean war, and was twice wounded by rifle bullets; also in the Indian Mutiny, being present at the capture of Cawnpore, Lucknow, Barielly, &c. After serving his first term in the "Black Watch," he re-enlisted into the 43rd (Derbyshire) Regiment, then under orders for New Zealand, where he served through the Maori war. He received four medals and three clasps, and also the French war medal for "valour and discipline." He remained Sergeant-Instructor till 1891, when, having reached the age limit, he retired. In 1896 he was one of the fifteen selected at a veteran's parade in the Queen's Park, Edinburgh, to have their photographs presented to the Queen. Sergeant Fox was succeeded by Sergeant-Instructor Brennan, from the Scots Fusileers.

Previous to 1867 marking was part of the duty of the Sergeant-Instructor, provided there was an officer or sergeant in charge of the firing party. In class-firing various members of the Company undertook the duty, the Instructor having to attend to the register. The signalling at that time was performed by three differently-coloured flags. At this date William Somerville was engaged as marker. He resigned in 1869, and William Mirtle was appointed, and still fills the position. He has taken an intelligent interest in his duty, and is the inventor of a most ingenious signalling apparatus.

1870 In 1870 a second Company was raised, to which Lieutenant Sime was appointed Captain, the officers in the two Companies

being as follows,—Captains, Adam L. Cochrane and William Sime; Lieutenants, Frank Rutherford and Robert F. Fisher; Ensigns, Adam Thomson and William Stirling. At that date there were 179 of all ranks in the two Companies; the Capitation Grant was thirty shillings each for the rank and file, and fifty shillings for each officer and sergeant.

After the death of Dr George McDougall in 1862, Dr A. C. Tweedie was appointed Surgeon. He was succeeded by Dr  
1875 John McDougall, who left the town in 1875, when Dr Menzies, was appointed. Dr Menzies had formerly served in the Army as an Assistant-Surgeon, and in his professional capacity had served through the Crimean war. During the time of his service in the local corps he conducted an ambulance class, the several members of which successfully passed the Government inspection, each man receiving the badge. Dr Menzies resigned in 1893, and retired with the rank of Surgeon-Major, and was succeeded by Dr Doig.

1885 In 1885 Captain Sime retired with the rank of Honorary-Major, and was presented with his portrait by the officers and men belonging to the detachment. He was succeeded by Lieutenant Harry S. Murray, who again, on the retiral of Honorary-Major and Captain Cochrane in 1886, was promoted to the command of the detachment. Lieutenant John Brown was promoted to the vacant Captaincy, at whose death, in 1889, Lieutenant John Sanderson was promoted to be Captain.

1887 In 1887 a third Company was raised, Lieutenant Frank S. Fairbairn being appointed Captain. Captain Fairbairn died in 1893. The Galashiels detachment in 1896 consists of three Companies, comprising 280 men, made up as follows,—nine officers, one Staff-Sergeant, one Sergeant-Instructor, three Colour-Sergeants, twelve Sergeants, and 254 rank and file. The following are the officers,—F Company—Captain and Honorary-Major Harry S. Murray, commanding the detachment, and Lieutenants William Dunlop and William Rutherford; G Company—Captain John Sanderson and Lieutenants Charles W. Scott and Gordon Cochrane; H Company—Captain and



DR SOMERVILLE

DR McDOUGALL

DR TWEEDIE

DR WEIR

DR MENZIES



Honorary-Major William Stirling and Lieutenants Gideon Brown and Donald G. Stalker. Surgeon-Lieutenant Doig is attached to F Company.

During the years that have elapsed since the Volunteer movement originated the weapon in use has gone through several stages. The original Enfield muzzle-loading rifles were converted into Snider breech-loaders, which gave place to the Martini-Henry. This, in its turn, is being superseded by the Lee-Metford. The size and weight of the bullet has also varied considerably. The Snider bullet was composed of lead, having a tapering orifice in its base, which was partially filled by a plug made of wood or earthenware. This, driven into the bullet by the force of the explosion, caused it to expand and fill the grooves of the rifle. The bullet measured one and one-sixteenth inch long, five-eighths of an inch in diameter, and weighed one and one-sixteenth ounce. The Martini bullet, also composed of solid lead, measured one and a quarter inch long, and seven-sixteenths of an inch in diameter, and was the same weight as that of the Snider. The Lee-Metford bullet has a casing of hard white metal filled with lead, and measures one and a quarter inch long, nine-thirty-seconds of an inch in diameter, and weighs half an ounce.

The corps has taken part in three great reviews at Edinburgh, viz.:—The Royal Review in 1860, that in 1868, which was considered the best from a military point of view, and the National Review in 1881. They also turned out in force at Kelso and Melrose when the Queen visited the Borders in 1867, and on all occasions they appeared well drilled and disciplined, alike a credit to themselves and to their officers, and an honour to the town.

For some years the head-dress for undress uniform was the “blue bonnet” or “Tam o’ Shanter,” which has now been superseded by the “Glengarry.”

1896 In 1896 the following members of the Companies received the long service medal, viz.:—Honorary-Major A. L. Cochrane, Honorary-Major W. Stirling, Colour-Sergeants Dobson, Hall,



Weir, and Mills; Sergeants Lindsay, Montgomery, Mack, Speirs, Redpath, Anderson, and Lawson; Corporals Mirtle, Heard, Valentine, and Hogarth; Piper Dodds.

Though the Gala Forest Rifles have been able to give a good account of themselves in the various rifle meetings and competitions in which they have been engaged, none of the principal trophies, such as the Queen's or Prince of Wales' prizes, have fallen to their share. Yet in the ranks of the detachment has been found, in the person of Colour-Sergeant George Hall, the holder of the record for the Borders, if not for Scotland, for steady, successful, all-round shooting. Colour-Sergeant Hall joined the force in 1860, and soon began to acquire a reputation as a marksman. During the years he served in the Company he rose by the usual steps to be Colour-Sergeant. He resigned in 1895, and the occasion was marked by his being entertained to supper by his officers and old comrades, when he was presented with an address testifying that

“For thirty-five years you have been constant and regular at drill, and as a marksman you have, during that long period, upheld the honour of the corps and rendered the name of the Border Rifles famous. You have maintained a foremost place at all the principal rifle meetings, and raised the reputation of the Borders and of Scotland.”

Colour-Sergeant Hall was twice in the Sixty and once in the Hundred for the Queen's Prize. He fired five times in the Scottish Twenty in international matches, and has won four gold, two silver, and one bronze Scottish Twenty medals. He also holds one St George's and one West of Scotland badge, besides three Prince of Wales' county medals, and over fifty gold, silver, and bronze medals, cups, and other trophies. He was returned a number of times as the best shot in the battalion, and in 1880 was the highest scorer in the match between East and West of Scotland, at Cowglen, with a score of ninety-seven.

1884 In 1884 he won the Martini-Henry tournament championship at Cowglen against all comers. He has also taken prominent places in the principal competitions,—Third place for the

Caledonian Shield, fifth for the Prince of Wales', tenth in the Queen's, and twenty-fourth in the St George's prize competitions. He has twice made a hundred points out of a possible 105 with the Martini-Henry rifle.

## CHAPTER IX.

### SOUTH OF SCOTLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

1860 **T**HIS society originated in 1860, having for its aim the consideration of all measures calculated to promote and extend the trading interests of the south of Scotland.

The original office-bearers were William Nixon, Hawick, president; George Roberts, Selkirk, vice-president; and Thomas Cathrae, Hawick, and Robert Stewart, Galashiels, secretaries; the number of members being seventy-three.

The membership is composed of manufacturers, bankers, merchants, and others interested in the trade and prosperity of the district, each member contributing annually the sum of a guinea to the funds of the association.

As all the members comprising the Galashiels Manufacturers' Corporation may be said to be included in the membership of the Chamber of Commerce, the necessity for the Manufacturers' Corporation, as such, discussing matters either affecting the locality or the country generally is now rendered almost unnecessary.

There are two general meetings held annually, the meetings taking place alternately at Galashiels and Hawick; but special meetings can be called by requisition of one-third of the council.

The council consists of twenty-one directors, representing the various centres of trade, allocated in the following proportions:—Galashiels and Hawick, five members each; Peebles, Innerleithen, and Walkerburn combined, three members; Dumfries, Selkirk, and Langholm, two each; Jedburgh and Earlston, one member each.

Since the formation of the association, the membership has 1896 steadily increased, till in 1896 it numbers one hundred and

thirty-five. The present office-bearers are,—Henry Ballantyne, jun., Peebles, president; Luke Greenwood, Hawick, vice-president; Richard Lees, Galashiels, and James R. Carmichael, Hawick, secretaries; George Grier, honorary treasurer. The balance at the credit of the Chamber is £388, 19s 5d.

It would be impossible to enumerate even a fraction of the questions that have been discussed or otherwise disposed of by the Chamber since its formation, but an idea of the multifarious nature of the interests coming under its attention may be gathered from the varied list dealt with during the past year, in addition to the ordinary routine business. These comprise,—“Scottish Private Bill Legislation,” “Railway Facilities,” “Imports into British Colonies,” “Burmah, Siam, and China Railway,” “Imprisonment for Debt,” “The Metric System,” “Sale of Goods Act,” “Telegraphs,” “Rates to the East,” “Codification of Mercantile Laws,” “Anglo-American Arbitration Movement,” “Imperial Penny Postage,” &c.

## CHAPTER X.

### PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATIVES AND CANDIDATES.

1868 **A**FTER a long agitation in favour of an extension of the franchise, the Reform Bill of 1868 was passed, which created a number of new constituencies. One of these was the group of burghs consisting of Hawick, Galashiels, and Selkirk.

The news came to Galashiels at eleven o'clock at night, when most of the inhabitants had retired to rest; but in a short time the Town's Band paraded the streets in honour of the event, and all through the town the greatest enthusiasm prevailed. At that time it was estimated that the number of electors in the three burghs was 3030; Hawick containing 1360, Galashiels 970, and Selkirk 700.

The long-desired voice in national affairs had at length been achieved, and no time was lost in making preparations for the choice of a representative. Meetings were held in the three burghs, and a large joint committee, representative of all classes, was appointed for the purpose of securing a suitable candidate. A platform was drawn up, setting forth the measures which generally found favour with the electors at that time, the following being the planks,—“Equalisation of the Burgh and County Franchise, with Redistribution of Seats,” “Shorter Parliaments,” “The Abolition of the Laws of Primogeniture and Entail,” “The Disestablishment of the Irish Church,” “The Modification of the Game and Fishing Laws,” “Vote by Ballot,” and “An Unsectarian System of National Education.” Differences of opinion to a certain extent prevailed among the electors in regard to these questions, but the platform was for the most part accepted.

The first candidates that were spoken of in connection with the new constituency were the Lord Advocate, Mr William

Elliot of Benrig, and Andrew Rutherford Clark, Sheriff of Berwickshire. In addition to these, the Hon. George F. S. Elliot, brother of the Earl of Minto, and formerly secretary to Lord John Russell, was added to the list. Such was the position when a letter was received from George Otto Trevelyan, M.P. for Tynemouth, offering his services. Mr Trevelyan was the son of Sir Charles Trevelyan, Bart., K.C.B., and nephew of Lord Macaulay. He was supported with strong recommendations from leading members of the Liberal party, amongst whom was John Bright.

The three first mentioned gentlemen now withdrew and left the issue to be fought out between the Hon. George Elliot and Mr Trevelyan. Mr Elliot was the first to take the field, and visited the Burghs in succession. After Mr Trevelyan had made similar appearances, committees were formed to promote the interests of each candidate. The excitement attendant upon the election was in full swing when a third candidate, in the person of John Gorrie, advocate, came upon the scene. After testing the feeling of the various constituencies and finding that he was too late in entering the contest, he retired. He was subsequently appointed to a Governorship in the West India Islands.

It was found, after a canvas, that Galashiels was nearly unanimous for Mr Trevelyan, while in the sister burghs the parties were more evenly balanced. Previous to the election an incident occurred which created a good deal of feeling in Galashiels, and which might have given rise to serious consequences.

Owing to some supposed informality in the registration roll, some members of Mr Elliot's party conceived the idea of disfranchising for the time being Mr Trevelyan's supporters, and thereby ensuring the return of their candidate. Accordingly, at six o'clock in the evening of the last day that claims could be lodged for admission to the electoral roll, objections were delivered by post to every voter in the town except those who were known to be favourable to Mr Elliot's candidature, under the impression that no time would remain for

fresh claims to be lodged. In this, however, they were mistaken. Hints of what had been done had leaked out, and when the objections began to be delivered the canvassers on behalf of Mr Trevelyan started and canvassed the town anew. The services of a Selkirk solicitor had been engaged, who, with a large staff of workers, made out fresh claims as the canvassers brought in their books, and by eleven o'clock the work was completed. The Town's Band was called out, which marched at the head of a procession of excited electors to Bridge Street, where John Pringle, the assessor for the burgh, resided, who, from his door step, publicly testified that he had received the fresh claims within the statutory period. While on their way through Market Place, it became known to the processionists that Mr Elliot's committee were met in the Corn Exchange, and had it not been for the intervention of some of the more prominent members of the Trevelyan party, it would have fared badly with those who had endeavoured to deprive their fellow-townsmen of the right to vote for the candidate of their choice. However, better councils prevailed, though shortly afterwards one or two of those who had made themselves particularly obnoxious by signing the objections had an opportunity of testing the depth and temperature of the mill dam.

When the Registration Court was held, it was found that the labour had been unnecessary, as the Sheriff stated that it was his duty to rectify any mistake of the kind that might have occurred.

This ill-judged effort on the part of Mr Elliot's friends only recoiled upon themselves, as some of his supporters withdrew from the party; and, in these circumstances, he retired from the field, and Mr Trevelyan was returned as the first M.P. for the Hawick Burghs on November 18th, 1868.

In 1874, with a constituency increased to 3729, he was returned unopposed, but in 1880 the seat was contested by James T. Elliot of Wolflee in the Conservative interest. The constituency had increased to 4608; and when the poll was declared the numbers were,—Trevelyan, 3518; Elliot, 553.

In 1882 Lord Frederick Cavendish, the Chief Secretary for Ireland, was assassinated, and Mr Trevelyan was appointed  
1883 by Mr Gladstone to the vacant office. In 1883 a demonstration was held in Mr Trevelyan's honour at Galashiels. He was entertained at a banquet by the Corporation. The company comprised most of the business men of the town, both Liberal and Conservative. In the evening a soiree took place in a new weaving shed at Buckholm Mill, at which 3500 persons were present. The chair was occupied by Provost Hall, and there were deputations present from Hawick, Peebles, Lauder, Innerleithen, Melrose, Stow, Earlston, Selkirk, Edinburgh, &c. During the course of the proceedings an address was presented to Mr Trevelyan, warmly commending his conduct in relation to the government of Ireland. In 1884 he received the appointment of Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, with a seat in the Cabinet. Subsequently, on his appointment as Secretary for Scotland, he took steps to raise the question of the amendment of the Tweed Fishery Acts, but shortly afterwards he resigned on account of the nature of the Home Rule Bill for Ireland introduced by Mr Gladstone.

In consequence of Mr Trevelyan's attitude towards Mr Gladstone's bill, he was opposed in 1886 by Alexander Laing Brown, Galashiels, in the Home Rule interest, who defeated him at the poll by a majority of 30, and the connection that had been maintained for eighteen years came to an end.

While Member for the Border Burghs, as the constituency is usually styled, Mr Trevelyan made his mark both in the literary and political world. Notwithstanding the amount of time absorbed by his political duties, he produced *The Early History of Charles James Fox*, *Letters of a Competition Wallah*, *Life of Macaulay*, &c. In his political career, he was no less busy, being in 1868 appointed a Civil Lord of the Admiralty. In 1869 he brought in a bill dealing with Greenwich Hospital, by which £99,000 was devoted towards the benefit of old seamen. In 1870 Mr Trevelyan resigned office and a salary of £1000 a year because he could not support the educational proposals of



the Government. From 1870 and onward he carried on a crusade against abuses in the Army, and in 1871 moved that purchases by sale of commissions in the Army be abolished. Though unsuccessful, he persevered, and at length had the satisfaction of seeing the reform he advocated accomplished by Mr Gladstone, who obtained the Royal prerogative for the purpose.

Mr Trevelyan commenced to advocate the equalisation of the burgh and county franchise in 1872, and on February 7th, 1873, he re-introduced to the House of Commons what may be politically termed his life's work—a bill to extend the burgh franchise to the counties. In 1879 Mr Trevelyan was “wanted” by Manchester, but declined and promised to stick to the Border Burghs. In 1880 he accepted the Secretaryship to the Admiralty.

During his tenure of office the great franchise battle was fought. Mr Gladstone's Cabinet took up the measure and passed the bill through the Lower House. The Lords threw it out, and an appeal was made to the country. Great demonstrations in favour of the bill were held, and at length the Lords passed the measure. Mr Trevelyan was rightly credited with being “the father of the franchise.”

At length the Home Rule Bill was introduced, and it was admittedly defeated by a speech delivered by Mr Trevelyan before the second reading. While Lord Hartington, Mr Chamberlain, and other Liberal dissentients from Mr Gladstone's measure counselled that they should protest against the bill by withdrawing from the House, Mr Trevelyan advised that they should declare their opposition to the measure by a vote against it. This policy was followed, and the bill was defeated. At the next election he lost his seat in the Border Burghs. His supporters in both sections of the Unionist party in the Burghs presented him with his portrait at a Unionist demonstration at Hawick.

Some time afterwards he returned to the Liberal party and obtained a seat in Parliament for the Bridgeton division of

Glasgow, and again attained Cabinet rank as Secretary for Scotland in Mr Gladstone's last administration. Owing to failing health, he resigned his seat in February, 1897, at the comparatively early age of fifty-eight.

Whatever may be the verdict of posterity regarding Mr Trevelyan's course of action since his connection with the Border Burghs was severed, it can at least be affirmed that, for the eighteen years he represented that constituency his brilliant career in the political world reflected honour upon the Burghs, which were associated with all the great measures passed between 1868 and 1886.

As has already been stated, Mr Trevelyan was succeeded in 1886 by Alexander L. Brown. Mr Brown is a member of one of the oldest manufacturing families in the town, and previously had interested himself largely in political affairs. In 1887 he introduced a bill into Parliament for the purpose of amending the law relating to rod fishing in Scotland, but, in consequence of the bill being blocked, no practical result followed.

1888 In 1888 the Unionist section of the electors in the Burghs invited Austen Chamberlain, son of the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, to become the Unionist candidate. He accepted the invitation, and addressed several meetings throughout the constituency. In 1892 he received an invitation to contest East Worcester in the Unionist interest, and, according to the conditions of his candidature for the Border Burghs, he resigned, and successfully contested the English seat. His place was taken by Ex-Provost Watson, Hawick.

1890 In 1890 Mr Brown intimated his intention of retiring at the next election, and the Liberal party in the Burghs adopted Thomas Shaw, advocate, Edinburgh, as their candidate, and at the election in 1892 he was returned by

1894 a majority of 365. In 1894 Mr Shaw was appointed Solicitor-General for Scotland, and, on seeking re-election, was opposed in the Unionist interest by R. W. Macleod Fullarton, Q.C., with the result that Mr Shaw was again returned by the increased majority of 647. In 1894 John Sanderson, manufacturer,

Knowepark, was adopted as the Unionist candidate. Mr Sanderson is a native of the town, and belongs to one of the most prominent families in the woollen trade. At the  
1895 election in 1895 he reduced Mr Shaw's majority to 502, and he still continues to champion the Unionist cause in the Border Burghs.

For some years both political parties have had their  
1896 respective clubs in rooms rented for the purpose, but in 1896 active steps were taken in both cases to erect suitable premises for the purpose of strengthening their relative positions in the town.

## CHAPTER XI.

### QUEEN VICTORIA JUBILEE INSTITUTE FOR NURSES.

**T**HE local branch of this institution had its origin at a meeting of ladies and others interested in the formation of an association for the purpose of nursing the sick amongst the working classes in the town. The meeting was called by Provost Brown, who presided, and the assemblage was addressed by Miss Guthrie, honorary secretary of the Scottish branch of the Q.V.J.I.N., who explained the object and practical working of such an association. At the conclusion of her address, it was moved by Provost Brown, and seconded by the Rev. John Barr Pollock, that a female association for nursing the sick amongst the working classes be formed in the town, to be affiliated with the Jubilee Institute. This motion was unanimously adopted, and a committee was appointed to carry it into effect. It was also agreed that the name of the association should be called the "Galashiels Branch" of the above institution, and that application be made at once for the services of a nurse. In order to provide the necessary funds required, it was arranged with the managers of the various churches in the town that a collection be taken on behalf of the scheme, which has now become an annual event.

- 1891 In November, 1891, an anonymous donor presented a house in Gala Terrace, rent free, to be used as a home for the nurse so long as the institution in Galashiels remains an integral branch of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute for Nurses. It was furnished from a special fund, and formally
- 1892 opened on the 22nd January, 1892. A room in the house was furnished for the purpose of being let to Queen's nurses who require change and rest, which opportunity has been taken advantage of with the most gratifying results.

The office-bearers are,—Mrs Andrew Brown, Maryfield, president, who has acted since the formation of the association; Mrs James Dickson, Leebrae, and Mrs Robert Somerville, Abbotsford Road, vice-presidents. Mrs Adam Lees Cochrane, Kingsknowes, acted as honorary secretary and treasurer till 1892, at which date she resigned, and was succeeded by Mrs Walter Shaw, Norwood.

#### COTTAGE HOSPITAL.

1891 This institution originated in 1891, and was due to the ladies' committee of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Nursing Institute. Being desirous of extending the scope of their operations by an addition to the nursing staff, they referred the matter to the medical gentlemen in the town, who advised that an hospital where surgical cases and non-infectious diseases could be treated was more urgently required. The scheme was received with such enthusiasm that the sum of £1700 was immediately promised. James Sanderson, Woodlands, suggested that an effort be made to raise the sum of £3000 for the purpose of founding the hospital, in the following manner,—£2000 in sums of £100, £750 in smaller sums, and £250 in one shilling subscriptions from the operatives in the town. A public meeting was held and a committee appointed to carry into effect a resolution to erect a cottage hospital. Richard Lees, Town Clerk, and William Rutherford, jun., solicitor, were appointed honorary secretary and honorary treasurer respectively.

The town was canvassed for subscriptions by the ladies' committee, and R. Thomson Shiels & Thomson, architects, Edinburgh, were called in to advise the committee regarding the site, and also to furnish necessary information in connection with the proposed building. At length the site in the Eastlands was agreed upon, containing an area of an acre and a half, and Mr Scott of Gala expressed his willingness to feu the ground at the rate of £10 per annum. Competitive plans of a building to contain fourteen beds, with provision for an

extension extending to twenty, the cost not to exceed £1800, were submitted, and the design prepared by John Wallace, architect, Edinburgh, was adopted. The services of Hippolyte J. Blanc, A.R.S.A., were secured as assessor, to advise the committee regarding the most suitable plan for the proposed hospital. As the estimate of Robert Hall & Co., of £2742, 12s, was considerably over the stipulated amount, the committee proceeded to make such modifications of the plans as would reduce the cost without materially affecting the efficiency of the hospital. During the progress of the building operations a letter was received from Messrs Alexander, solicitors, Selkirk, offering, on behalf of a client, to furnish one of the wards. Mrs Adam Cochrane, Fernieknowe, also contributed £750 for the purpose of endowing a bed in the male ward, to be called "The Adam Cochrane Memorial Bed." Messrs Rutherford, solicitors, next intimated a donation from an anonymous donor of £750 towards the endowment fund; while William A. Sanderson, Byethorn, in addition to his original subscription, contributed a further sum of £100 to be applied to the same purpose.

Mrs James Sanderson, Woodlands, presented the whole bed and table linen, and napery. Mrs Andrew Brown, Maryfield, provided the grates and relative furnishings, and Mrs Archibald Cochrane and other friends supplied various necessary and useful articles.

1893 On the 16th November, 1893, the hospital was opened by the Earl of Dalkeith. The total cost of the building amounted to over £4482, and it was opened free of debt. The hospital is maintained by subscriptions collected by the ladies' committee and collectors in connection with the various public works in the town.

The trustees for the institution are the Sheriff of Roxburgh, Berwick, and Selkirk; the Provost of Galashiels, and the Deacon of the Manufacturers' Corporation. President, the Earl of Dalkeith; chairman of managers, Ex-Provost Brown; honorary secretary, Richard Lees, Town Clerk; honorary treasurer, William Rutherford, solicitor.

## CHAPTER XII.

### BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

#### DAVID THOMSON.

**M**R THOMSON, a native of Galashiels, was a son of William Thomson, one of the original owners of Botany Mill. In conjunction with his brother William, he built the Linnburn Mill, where they carried on the manufacture of woollen cloth. The partners dwelt at the top of Channel Street, the sites of their houses being now occupied by the Bank of Scotland and the Post Office. The house occupied by William Thomson, next the foot of High Street, was latterly converted into that once well-known public house "The Hole in the Wa'."

About 1825 the partnership was dissolved, and David Thomson left Galashiels and started business in Selkirk Waulk-mill. He remained till 1828, when he removed to occupy a woollen mill and farm called Acklington Park, situated on the Coquet, belonging to the Duke of Northumberland. Mr Thomson was widely known as the Galashiels poet, and in his day he was much in request on account of his literary abilities. He also acted as local correspondent for some of the newspapers then in vogue, and has left a considerable amount of information relating to the contemporaneous history of the town. He died at Acklington Park in 1845, aged sixty-six years.

Mr Thomson was on a friendly footing with Sir Walter Scott, who styled him the "Galashiels Bard," a title of which he was extremely proud. When Scott's novel *The Bride of Lammermoor* appeared in 1819, Mr Thomson rendered it into verse and sent a copy to Abbotsford, along with the following characteristic letter,—

"The enclosed paraphrase on the *Bride of Lammermoor* is humbly submitted to Mr Scott's judgment by the author, and, if thought worthy, Mr Scott would oblige by putting a polish on the piece, so that it might appear worthy of the original.

The author is sensible that he has no claim to trouble Mr Scott, but it is said, a fellow-feeling makes us wondrous kind, and, on the faith of this, the author makes this intrusion. Yet an inferior making a request to a superior is, in the language of the world, styled impertinence,

'Yet some there are superior to their kind,  
Who mark distinctions only by the mind.'

And many kindred spirits are kept at a distance by the extreme forms of politeness, often an insuperable bar to modest merit.

If Mr Scott had been of a reserved disposition he could never have had access to those varieties of character, the shades of which he has so elegantly, faithfully, and powerfully delineated.

Should Mr Scott's health permit, which the author, only in common with the public, is sorry to see interrupted, it would be a gratification to have a communication, which might be addressed to,

David Thomson,  
Galashiels,  
an imitating admirer."

The terms of the reply which Mr Thomson received are unknown; but, from the sequel, it would appear that in the kindness of his heart Mr Scott had referred to the verses in a more flattering manner than their merit warranted; while it is to be presumed the desired polish was not applied. The verses were published, and from the tenor of the following apology sent by Mr Thomson, Sir Walter, who had just been knighted, was offended by the manner in which his name had been connected with the production,—

"Sir Walter will, I hope, pardon the liberty I have taken to shelter my infant offspring under his shade; in so doing I have taken a liberty to use his name without the sanction of his authority, and for this reason, that I blushed to ask from a desire not to be troublesome, and some dread that I might have been refused.

It cannot be expected that Sir Walter would lend his name to any paltry scribbler to puff off their puerile productions, and the use of it on this occasion is not so much out of vanity in the author as a wish to remunerate the printer who has been at the expense of the trifling publication. This has been almost the sole motive of the author in the liberty he has taken with Sir Walter's approval of his verses in manuscript, not from a design to abuse



discretion in attaching his name to a performance so shockingly deficient in many respects, and, moreover, mangled with inaccuracies in the printing.

It would have required a little of that polish from that Master of the Lyre who has unveiled the fading legends of antiquity by rescuing the genuine but rude minstrels of Caledonia, that shall reflect a lasting lustre on the name of Scott and Scotland, till time shall be no more."

Mr Thomson was in the habit of writing complimentary verses and sending them to various persons, both ladies and gentlemen. The verses referred to in the following letter to the Duke of Wellington exist only in an incomplete state, and are not worth quoting, but the letter itself is a specimen of Mr Thomson's style,—

"MY LORD DUKE,

Enclosed is to celebrate one of the most glorious victories recorded in the pages of history. Many attempts have been made to do it justice, but none have risen equal to the occasion.

I am not so vain as to think my verses are worthy of the theme, but if you knew how low a station I fill in society you would excuse the deficiency arising from a niggard fate and narrow situation.

In the enclosed composition no pretension is made to originality, it being a parody on Campbell's *Battle of the Baltic*, in which a nobler tribute is paid to the fame of Nelson than is in the power of the most talented sculptor to bestow. Had Mr Campbell wrote the battle of Waterloo in the same strain, its unrivalled excellence would have prevented many a puerile attempt, and amongst the rest the present. No wonder, my Lord, the achievements of the British arms in the late war, and your conduct in particular, call forth the national genius to commemorate a struggle the most arduous, and triumph the most important, recorded in the annals of the world.

Mr Addison in his campaign has done justice to the Duke of Marlborough, but who has yet done justice to the Duke of Wellington? Surely when the age has produced such a number of poets one should be found qualified to rise equal to the occasion.

I will be satisfied if my attempt shall call forth the slumbering genius of a Campbell, to associate with the name of the immortal Nelson, the glory of him who is not only dear to his native country, but who is hailed from the pillars of Hercules to the confines of the frozen ocean as the greatest man of the age, in whose hands may be confided the destinies of the world.

That you may live long to enjoy those honours that a grateful country has bestowed is the wish of,

My Lord Duke,

Your most humble admirer,

(Signed) DAVID THOMSON.

## HISTORY OF GALASHIELS.

Mr Thomson's muse seldom took wing, trusting to power of flight; he appears to have been content to parody upon some well-known piece by one or other favourite authors.

Amongst all Mr Thomson's poetical efforts the fewest are perhaps the best known. They refer to James Leitch's name is yet familiar to many in the district in consequence of his being made the hero of a collection of a stories, which, so far as he was concerned, had no four On the contrary, he was a man of high Christian character and sterling worth, who in his day and generation le with untiring energy and zeal to leave the world better found it.

"The Deevil sat in Darnick Tower,  
Out at a shot hole keekit he,  
When Jamie Leitch cam' ower the brig,  
To storm his battery.

Quoth he, "I've tarried here awhile,  
And thought for ever to remain,  
Since I was driven frae Galashiels,  
Whilk lang a thought ma ain.

Fareweel to Eildon Hill and Dale,  
Fareweel to Darnick Tower and Tree;  
For there's nae rest within the reach  
Of Jamie Leitch for me.

Wi' that the Deevil took a flight,  
And owre the Tweed he tried to flee;  
But Jamie caught him by the neck,  
An' he has dippit Auld Cloutie."

JAMES BROWN.

The subject of this sketch came from Maxton to Galashiels in the closing years of the last century. He was the first master in the town, and in his premises in Elm Row he carried on the trade of tailor and clothier, besides being the prof

of a licensed general store. Some of his business books are still extant, and, from the information contained in them, he appears to have been the possessor of what in those days would be considered a moderate fortune, which he freely lent to his neighbours not so fortunately circumstanced. His kindness in this respect appears to have been largely taken advantage of by the early "Dysters" or "Clothiers." His benefactions were not confined to them, but extended to the farmers in the district, professional men, tradesmen, merchants, &c., the sums borrowed at frequent intervals varying from £1 to £30.

Dr Douglas is rightly credited with large-hearted liberality, which he exercised in behalf of his struggling parishioners in the early days of the town's history, but he was not the only instance of this nature. Any one perusing the dim and faded records of the transactions of a departed generation, cannot but be forced to the conclusion that the name of James Brown is also deserving of being held in grateful remembrance on account of his liberality, which seems to have been so freely taken advantage of by the men who founded Galashiels.

The following is one of the entries in his ledger, and is interesting both on account of the prices quoted and the customer,—

MR DOUGLAS, MINISTER, GALASHIELS.

				S.	D.
1791.					
Nov. 6	To a pair of breeches, making,	-	-	1	6
	To a pair of silk garters,	-	-	1	1
	To pocketing and lining,	-	-		6
	To $\frac{1}{2}$ shalloon,	-	-		6
	To thread, silk, and twist,	-	-		5
	27 big and 10 small buttons,	-	-		10 $\frac{1}{2}$
				<hr/>	
				4	10 $\frac{1}{2}$

WILLIAM KEMP.

Mr Kemp was born at Melrose in 1790, his father being the proprietor of the Bleachfield there. He came to Galashiels in 1821, and started business as turner and cooper. About 1834 trade was in a depressed condition, and, disheartened by

## HISTORY OF GALASHIELS.

the death of his wife, he threw up his business and secured the situation of manager to the lately-formed Gas Company; he filled for the succeeding twenty-six years. When he died the managers voted him an annuity of £20 in consideration of his long and faithful service. When in business on his own account, he did not confine himself to turning, but took his hand on various classes of work. He erected the first foot-bridge across the Gala at Langhaugh Ford, and altered the cauld at Buckholmside, Jedburgh, and Innerleithen; he erected the first condenser in Scotland in Huddersfield from models and sketches sent by Thomas Roberts, of America. He was the recipient of a premium of £15 from the Board of Trustees for an improvement in the manner of driving wheels. The motive power for his lathe was supplied by a donkey, which was kept up to its duty by means of an ingeniously contrived switch which came across its back; it slackened its pace under that necessary to keep the lathe running at its proper speed.

He was an enthusiastic curler, and, in order to enable him to play game all the year round, he fitted up a wooden rink at the end of his abode in Bridge Street, which, when planed smooth and smeared with black soap, formed an excellent imitation of a genuine article. This summer rink is thus referred to by Rev. Nathaniel Paterson in the *New Statistical Account*,

“Among the usual games of the country that of curling has lately afforded considerable amusement as a summer exercise, being practised with blocks shaped like a curling-stone on a rink of the ordinary length and deal, smoothed and rendered slippery with soap. To diminish the friction the block is made to slide not on its entire base, but on three knobs, equal and well rounded. Judging by the hard hits, the glee of the players, the vociferations of censure or applause, as remarkable in this as in winter curling it would seem that the artificial method is no wise inferior, except in the want of scenery, and the effect of wonted association.”

On this novel rink John Thorburn, auctioneer, John Bull, slater, and other kindred souls were wont to assemble to enjoy their game, independent altogether of the state of the weather.

Geology was Mr Kemp's favourite pursuit; he literally found sermons in stones, and he came to the conclusion "that the whole operation has been guided by an Almighty hand." He was a contributor to *Chambers' Journal*, and became well-known in the scientific world. He was elected a corresponding member of the Glasgow Geological Society, and was consulted by all the leading geologists of the day. He also lectured on his favourite science to the Mechanics' Institute in its early years.

Mr Kemp was scarcely less enthusiastic as an antiquarian. He was the honorary curator of the local museum, and without his services, in all probability, it would never have existed.

He also courted the Muses, and, being an ardent admirer of Burns, when his centenary was celebrated he was tempted in his sixty-eighth year to express his ideas in rhyme. This poem was awarded by Professor Aytoun the second prize offered by the Dunfermline Burns Club. The following is a sample verse, which may be taken as Mr Kemp's apology for his life, which closed on December 19th, 1864,—

" It's right to strive frae year to year,  
An' keep aye eident gatherin' gear,  
To drive want frae the door.  
But cauld an' barren is the heart,  
That cultivates nae other part,  
But toils to hoard the store."

GEORGE REAVELY.

Mr Reavely was born in the town in 1815, and, when old enough, was set to learn the trades of carding and spinning. He was of an inventive turn of mind, one of his earliest efforts being an improvement on the carding machine, which was generally adopted in the district.

In 1855, owing to dulness of trade, he was obliged to go to Stow Mill for employment, and it was then that he invented and experimented with his flying machine, which proved such a disastrous failure.

In the course of his journeys between Stow and Galashiels he came to the conclusion that the Railway Company overcharged him to the extent of one halfpenny each journey; the distance was six and a half miles, for which sevenpence was charged. He accordingly raised an action against the Company in the Edinburgh Sheriff Court for the halfpenny, and got decree in his favour. The Company appealed, but were ultimately obliged to reduce their fare to sixpence halfpenny.

He left Stow about a year afterwards, and began to run a coach between Galashiels and Innerleithen, and did fairly well till the railway was opened, when he found his occupation gone. He next started a similar conveyance between Jedburgh, Selkirk, and Hawick, which resulted in failure. More recently he endeavoured to run a conveyance between the east and west ends of Galashiels at a penny fare, but this scheme also proved abortive.

In 1862 he started the calling of auctioneer, and, by his well-known fund of wit and humour, was always able to attract a considerable crowd to his sales, though the motive in many cases was more for the sake of amusement than from any desire to transact business. He visited the United States, where he remained for some time, and, on his return, he delivered several lectures in the Public Hall on his experiences in that country.

In 1875 Mr Reavely published a characteristic work, entitled *A History, Medley, Directory, and Discovery of Galashiels*, purporting to be "a water scheme for power, domestic, and sanitary purposes, supplementing the use of fire engines, for the year 1875."

His inventive faculties were constantly at work. At one time he would be deeply engaged in constructing a machine for the purpose of cutting whins for horses' food, while at another his whole energies were devoted to the production of a new and improved knife cleaner, the outer case of which was made of an old cheese box. Nothing daunted by repeated failure, he next turned his attention to the invention of machines for washing clothes, potatoes, and carriage wheels. Leaving articles of domestic utility, he next produced an improved safety choke block for

railway use, an improved oiler for economising oil, and a safety mattress for use on board ship, which could be utilized as a life-buoy if necessary. The merits of this invention were to be demonstrated on St Mary's Loch, but when everything was prepared for the grand experiment no one was found willing to undertake the risk. At length a wheel-barrow was procured from the landlord of the Rodono Hotel, and the invention was slid into deep water. It was no sooner launched than it gracefully sank out of sight, amid the laughter of the spectators.

Latterly George filled the position of barman in the Commercial Hotel, and it was while engaged in this occupation that he presented himself as an independent candidate to the electors of the Border Burghs, to represent them in Parliament.

At public meetings George was generally to the front, advocating his peculiar ideas about things in general; the kindly feelings with which he was regarded always secured for him a good-humoured, if, at times, a somewhat demonstrative reception. The great idea of his life was to construct a flying machine. His standing grievance was that capitalists would not combine for the purpose of providing him with the wherewith to carry out his project. He always considered himself in advance of the age, and looked down upon everyone who ventured to differ from him with a sort of charitable pity.

For long years George was one of the characters in the town, and, with all his eccentricities, he maintained an unbroken record for integrity and truth, enjoying the respect and esteem of all who knew him. During his latter years he was in receipt of a small annuity contributed by a few gentlemen in Galashiels and Selkirk. He died in 1895, aged eighty years.

#### WILLIAM SANDERSON.

Mr Sanderson was a native of Galashiels, where he learned the craft of shoemaking. In the earlier years of the town's history he became one of its most outstanding public men, and figured largely in its civic and political progress. In 1848 he took a leading part in the Chartist movement, and was



THOMAS ROBERTS

JAMES STALKER

JOHN GRANT

JAMES BELL  
(Oldest inhabitant, aged 94 years)

WILLIAM SANDERSON





instrumental in forming a district branch of the Chartist Association. He was a prominent figure on political platforms, and did not confine his energies to Galashiels. On one occasion, accompanied by a friend, he went to Ettrick Bridge-end for the purpose of holding a Chartist meeting. When the hour arrived the villagers and their wives came marching to the school-room, where the meeting was to be held, with their Bibles in their hands. Politics were not much understood in those days, especially in country districts, and the rustics evidently considered that the meeting was meant to partake more or less of the devotional order. Mr Sanderson's talents in this direction being somewhat limited, he was on the point of leaving the field in dismay, but his companion came to the rescue. When the audience were assembled, he opened the proceedings by giving out a Psalm. He also led the singing, and, after engaging in prayer, he announced his text, "God made of one blood all nations of the earth," from which was poured into the ears of the unsuspecting villagers what would then be considered the poison of a Chartist oration. When he had finished he gravely remarked that Brother Sanderson would also address the meeting. Brother Sanderson then informed the auditory that, as the subject was not yet nearly exhausted, he would still further enlarge upon it, which he accordingly did to the wonderment of his audience, who had not been in the habit of hearing such ideas promulgated within the compass of a sermon.

Mr Sanderson was one of the pioneers of co-operation in the town, and in 1846 he started the Co-operative Building Society. In 1854 the Provident Building Society was also launched under his management.

Mr Sanderson took an active part in 1848 in opposing the adoption of the Police Act, and was one of the minority who at that time successfully appealed to the Court of Session against its adoption.

When the new Municipal Act came into operation Mr Sanderson was returned to the Town Council with the second *highest* number of votes, and from that date he took an

active part in the municipal life of the town, being latterly elected to the office of Treasurer. One of his proposals in the Council was the erection of a bridge at Galafoot, which became an accomplished fact long after his death, which occurred in 1884.

#### ROBERT GILL.

Mr Gill's father was a member of the firm of Gill, Sime, & Co., Botany Mills. Associated with the woollen trade from his earliest years, Mr Gill did a great deal to advance it in the course of his life. When a young man he devoted much of his time to improving the style of fabrics, which then consisted largely of shawls and tartans for ladies' mantles and dresses.

When his father died, Mr Gill succeeded to his position in the firm. After some time the partnership was dissolved, and Mr Gill removed to Caerlee Mills, Innerleithen.

Mr Gill was one of the earliest members of the South of Scotland Chamber of Commerce, and was a member of the commission appointed by the Chamber to inquire into and promote technical education in the textile industries of Scotland. He made repeated journeys to the Continent to obtain a knowledge of the systems adopted in France and Germany, with the view of improving and extending schools of design in Britain. His reports, published at that time, were among the first contributions in this country to the application of science and art to the production of tweeds and woollen fabrics. When he died in 1882 he had been long retired from business, but his interest in the progress of the staple industry remained to the last.

#### THOMAS KENNEDY.

Mr Kennedy was a native of the town, and learned the craft of weaving. His father was an expert with the violin and taught his three sons the same instrument. The family for about forty years was well-known as the "Kennedys," and the brothers were in much request at balls and other occasions of rejoicing in the town and district.

Mr Kennedy was an enthusiastic lover of Robert Burns,

and at every local celebration connected with that poet he read an original effusion on the bard or his works. He took great delight in writing verses, which, in general, were far above the standard usually reached by minor poets. At the desire of the Galashiels Burns Club, he published a volume of verse in 1889. He died the same year, aged sixty-five.

The following is one of his songs, entitled "The Dear Auld Land," which portrays the strong patriotic feelings with which he was animated,—

#### THE DEAR AULD LAND.

Fareweel, fareweel, the trial's o'er,  
Ye a' may gang, but I maun bide;  
I carena for yon vaunted shore,  
Where fortune's gilded phantoms glide.  
The spirit o' our woods and glens  
Sings in my heart sae witchinglie  
That siller ne'er can make amen's  
For the sweet sangs she sings to me.

I winna gang, I canna gang,  
I'll never gang ayont the sea;  
I like the dear auld land sae weel,  
Were I to leave't I'd dwine and dee.

There cam' a whisp'ring through the trees  
Yestreen while I was in the wood;  
And soft sweet voices in the breeze  
Cam' singin' round me where I stood.  
Oh! it was crag, and scaur, and dell,  
And the bright streamlet wandering there,  
That sent their mystic sp'rits to tell  
I could ha'e joy nae other where.

I lo'e the heather and the broom,  
That tuft the rock and sloping fell;  
And ilk renewal o' their bloom  
But binds me deeper in their spell.  
Amang them still then will I stray,  
And teach the youngers round my knee  
The grand auld sangs o' fight and fray,  
Where doughty Scotsmen bore the gree.

Oh, what avails the weel-filled purse,  
If where we love we canna be;  
Wealth's promised joy but proves a curse  
If a' the heart's best feelings flee.  
Then fare thee weel, the starting tear  
Tells the deep pang it costs to sever;  
But, dear auld Scotland, here I'll swear,  
Never to leave thee, never, never.

### JOHN HALL.

Mr Hall was born at Bowden in 1817, and came to Galashiels about 1827. He afterwards learned the trade of a mason, and in 1843 was assumed as a partner by his brother Robert, the firm being known as Robert Hall & Co. The connection lasted till 1863, when he withdrew from that firm, and, along with his brother-in-law, Andrew Murray, started the building firm of Hall & Murray. Mr Murray retired in 1879, and his place was occupied by John Hall, jun., the name of the firm being changed to its present designation of J. & J. Hall.

Mr Hall's municipal career began in November, 1865, when, at a meeting of electors, he was chosen to fill a vacancy in the last body of Police Commissioners. At the election of the first Town Council he was returned, and was elected the first Provost in the burgh. He served in that capacity until October, 1873, when he retired owing to some doubt regarding the legality of his position, the firm with which he was connected having secured the contract for the erection of the Public Library.

In November, 1875, he offered himself for re-election to the Town Council, and, having been returned at the top of the poll, he was elected Provost for the second time. In 1888 he resigned owing to failing health, when his public services were acknowledged by his being presented with his portrait, painted by C. Kay Robertson, Edinburgh, a replica of which hangs in the Burgh Council Chamber.

Under his regime the town progressed by leaps and bounds, thus causing him a considerable amount of work, which he cheerfully undertook. Besides the usual duties in connection with

the Provostship, the introduction of water cost him a large amount of time and labour. By his death, which occurred in 1892, the town lost one who, for nearly twenty years, had closely identified himself with its best interests. No one in its history has given more time and attention or bestowed greater pains to secure its municipal prosperity and to promote the comfort and well-being of its inhabitants.

PETER COLDWELL.

Mr Coldwell was a native of Lauder, where he learned the trade of a mason. Coming to Galashiels, he followed his occupation till an accident disabled him from further prosecuting his calling. In these circumstances he started a grocery business in Bridge Place, which, through course of time, developed into that of a wine and spirit merchant.

Mr Coldwell was endowed with gifts of no mean order, and he produced some humorous ballads whose circulation was not confined to this country, but extended to the Continent. His best-known piece, "Cuddy Peggy," has been translated into German and published in the Fatherland.

The heroine of the ballad was a well-known Galalean who earned her livelihood by perambulating the country with her donkey, vending smallwares and groceries. She was quite a character. Rigged out in a pease-meal "rusky," a man's coat, short skirt and kutikins, the little odd figure dodged on with her hands behind her back, keeping a keen outlook on every living thing in order to protect her dearly beloved "Dauvid." When the donkey proved perverse, as frequently occurred, she reproached and remonstrated with him as if he understood the vernacular as well as herself.

The other actor in the farce was the late Dr Henderson, the amiable and talented minister of the East United Presbyterian Church, who fully appreciated the humour of the piece and greatly respected the author. Mr Coldwell, however, took full advantage of poetic license, as, in point of fact, the Doctor was scarcely so far imposed upon as the ballad makes out. He

certainly met Peggy and learned of "Dauvid's" illness, and, on going home, he made some remark on the case. Mr Coldwell has told what otherwise might have easily been the result, but when the Doctor learned that "Dauvid" was only the "cud," he proceeded no further in his promised visitation.

Mr Coldwell retired from business and resided at Kelso, where his death took place in 1892, in the eighty-first year of his age.

#### CUDDY PEGGY.

In the auld toon o' Gala lived auld Peggy Tinlin,  
Wha was blest wi' content, though at times took a grumblin';  
Her calling in life was provisions to hawk,  
And Dauvid, her cud, bore them a' on his back.

Ilk mornin' they marched to their daily employ;  
Nae task did they count it, but rather a joy;  
And Dauvid jogged on 'neath his weel-laden creels,  
While Peggy, half-bent, hirpled after his heels.

Frae mornin' tae sunset they wandered alane,  
But aye at the dusk o' the gloamin' cam' hame;  
And when Peggy had sold off the goods o' her pack,  
Then she mounted hersel', and rade hame on his back.

For mony a lang day thus they toiled on thegither,  
And the langer they toiled grew the fonder o' ither;  
For Dauvid she seldom had reason to flog,  
Though gently she touched him at times wi' the brogue.

But it happened ae day that poor Dauvid took ill,  
Which the he'rt o' auld Peggy wi' sorrow did fill;  
And the big rolling tear filled the auld body's e'e,  
As she thocht tae hersel' that puir Dauvid wad dee.

And seein' him placed in this helpless condition,  
She thocht it her duty to get a physician.  
So away for that purpose she hastily set,  
When just on her way she the minister met.

"Well, Margaret," he said, "I hope you are well?"  
"I thank ye," said Peggy, "I'm gaily mysel';  
But I'm sorry tae tell you oor Dauvid's no' weel,  
An' I'm juist on my way for some medical skill."

"Indeed, to hear that I'm exceedingly sorry,  
But, if spared, I'll call down and see him to-morrow."  
So wi' that Margaret curtsied an' bade him good-bye,  
Syne away for the Doctor as fast's she could hie—

The Doctor came prompt at auld Peggy's request,  
Thinkin' a' the road up what he ought to suggest.  
So his patient wi' skill he minutely surveyed,  
And then shook his head, and reluctantly said—

"His case it is bad, and hopeless I doubt,  
But I'll try what I can to bring him about."  
So he blistered and bled him, and gave him a dose  
O' the best o' strong physick, as one might suppose:

And the means they were blest to gi'e Dauvid relief,  
And to ease at the same time the auld body's grief;  
For as Dauvid grew weel her spirits grew light,  
And her een, lately dimmed, shone wonderfu' bright.

The minister, he to his word ever true,  
Came down the next day, as he promised to do,  
On purpose, nae doubt, as a matter of course,  
To see if puir Dauvid was better or worse.

"Well, Margaret," he said, "how is David to-day?"  
"Weel, sir, he's some better, I'm thankfu' to say.  
The Doctor's been here and used every means,  
And to outward appearance some better he seems."

"I'm glad to hear that, and I hope he'll recover,  
And that both may be spared for a while to each other."  
"Oh, yes, sir, I'm glad and thankfu' atweel,  
For little I thocht I would see him sae weel.

Sit down, if you please, sir, and rest you a bit."  
"Well, Margaret, I doubt that I scarcely must sit,  
But, if it's convenient, with David I'll pray."  
"Gude guide us, sir, what on earth dae ye say?"

"I'll pray with your husband that's now in distress."  
"The deil's in the man—wad ye pray for an ass?"  
"O fie, Margaret, fie, why don't you think shame  
To call your poor husband by any such name?"



"Ma husband! I daresay the minister's mad;  
 I've nae husband noo, tho' at ae time I had."  
 "Dear Margaret, you don't mean to say it is true?"  
 "It's as true as this minute I'm speakin' to you."

"Then is David your son or relation in blood?"  
 "Gude gracious, the man! isn't it Dauvid the cud."  
 "A 'cud!'" cried the parson. "Ay, a 'cuddy'," cried she,  
 "Sic a farce to compare a dumb creatur tae me."

"Oh, Margaret, I find that I've been mistaken,  
 I David, your ass, for your husband have taken.  
 So pardon what I've in my ignorance said,  
 And the awkward mistake into which I've been led."

So the parson nae langer protracted his stay,  
 But shook hands wi' auld Peggy, and bade her good-day.  
 And laughed a' the road hame till nearly distracted,  
 To think sic a part in the drama he'd acted.

THOMAS RAE.

The subject of this sketch was born in Galashiels in 1868. On account of his health, he had to be taken from school at the age of thirteen, and the remainder of his brief existence was mainly spent in his room with a few books, his violin, and drawing materials. During that time he wrote occasional verses which appeared at intervals in the local press. After his decease, which occurred in 1889, a letter was found amongst his papers addressed to Andrew Lang, with whom he had formed an acquaintance, requesting him to see his verses published. This dying request was complied with, and in the preface to the little volume Mr Lang thus writes,—

"The request scarcely could be resisted without unkindness, nor read without emotion. Life had given him so little material pleasure that it was impossible to refuse; these verses had really been the employment and consolation of a brief and hampered life. With his verses and his violin he had been able to live in an ideal world, to forget pain, weakness, and the absence of many things that among the rich lend grace and charm to existence. I had the pleasure of making his acquaintance in the last year of his life, and the memory of his intelligent and spiritual face remains with me. Still more

vividly remain his gentle manner, his courtesy, and friendliness. He had 'long lived in fantasy' in a spiritual world, into which he passed for ever with the verse on his lips,

'O Love, that wilt not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul on Thee.'

His last words were 'home, home, home,' and so he fared to 'his ain countrie.' "

The following verses were his last effort,—

#### TWILIGHT SHADOWS.

The day is dying, the sun sinks low,  
The lengthening shadows gray  
Are folding their embrace around the hills,  
And stealing the light away.  
The drowsy sounds of the twilight dim  
Fall faint on the wearied ear;  
Lulling to rest with their music sweet,  
As the lone night draweth near.

The shadows flicker around my head,  
And the twilight's softened gloom  
Looms ever on with silent tread,  
Like a shadow before the tomb.  
But there comes to me, with the waning light,  
Sweet peace for the lonely way;  
And there gleams a star in the silent night,  
Which heralds the dawn of day.

#### JOHN GRANT.

The following sketch affords an excellent example of what may be attained by industry, energy, and perseverance, notwithstanding the untoward circumstances and disadvantages that may surround and hamper the early life of an individual.

Mr Grant was born in 1824 at Trinley Knowe, and, after receiving the rudiments of education at the "Luggie School," where Dr John Leyden, the famous Borderer, taught for a short time, he assisted his father, who was a drystone dyker. Mr Grant followed this occupation for a number of years, and, despite its laborious nature, he devoted his few spare hours to the cultivation of his mental faculties.

In 1845 he married and commenced housekeeping at Craiglatch, where for the following sixteen years he toiled through summer's sun and winter's storm. The hard labour and exposure affected his health, and he removed to Galashiels in 1861, where for the next two years he followed the occupation of book canvasser. In 1863 he opened a bookseller's shop in High Street, and succeeded the late Alexander Fisher, when he left the town, as local correspondent for the *Scotsman*. Although at this time he was nearly forty years of age, he qualified himself for his duty by mastering the intricacies of shorthand. He was also correspondent for the *Southern Reporter* and the *Edinburgh Evening Dispatch*.

He took a deep interest in all local questions, and any movement calculated to promote the welfare of the burgh at large had his ready support. In 1874 he fought and gained a stiff battle in the Sheriff Court, having for his opponents the Melrose Parochial Board, who sought to impose an assessment on the town on account of Ladhope Cemetery.

Originally Mr Grant belonged to the Established Church, being a member of Ladhope Chapel till 1843, when he threw in his lot with those who seceded from that body and formed themselves into Ladhope Free Church. Afterwards he became connected with the East United Presbyterian Church, and was elected to the eldership in that congregation. He took an active part in the formation of the South United Presbyterian Church, in which he also became an office-bearer. Latterly he returned to Ladhope Free Church, being then the sole surviving male member in connection with that congregation who "came out" in 1843. He died in 1896, aged seventy-two years.

For fifty years he had been a consistent and earnest advocate of the temperance cause. The reform of the Tweed Acts and other cognate subjects relating to angling had his warm support, and he strove much to regain and widen the privileges of the angling community. Both on the platform and in the press he proclaimed his views with no uncertain sound, and in the various controversies in which he

became involved he was always able to give a reason for the faith that was in him. He was a typical Scotsman, shrewd and far-seeing, and a keen fighter for what he considered right. He possessed a high degree of moral courage, and neither courted applause nor swerved from his sense of duty for the purpose of securing passing popularity, but constantly acted as if a voice from the unseen was whispering in his ear,

“ Though all men frown, let truth and right prevail,  
Take thou no thought for aught, for all is well.”

#### JANE A. AIMERS.

Miss Aimers was born in the School Close, Galashiels, and, as she grew up, developed considerable vocal powers. She studied music under the celebrated masters Signor Maraas in London and Signors Lamberti and Roncone in Milan, where Signor Lamberti considered her the best of his great pupils. She made her *debut* as a contralto at Spezzia, in Italy, and it was there that she adopted the Italian name of Madame Giovanna Ameris. For the succeeding three years she remained in Italy, carrying out a series of operatic engagements. She then came to London and was commanded to appear at Balmoral before Her Majesty the Queen, who expressed with much warmth her admiration, and presented the singer with a beautiful memento of the occasion.

In 1888 Madame Ameris was persuaded to visit Australia, and, though the voyage was good, she suffered so severely that it was three years before she gathered strength sufficient to think of returning home. This, however, she was not destined to accomplish, as she died at Sydney in January, 1891.

#### “ EFFIE.”

Miss Williamson was born in Galashiels, and her early life was spent among the hills and streams of the Borderland. She received her education at Selkirk, and, returning to Galashiels, became a power-loom weaver. In 1868 her father and

the family removed to Ireland, where they remained for the next eight years. After returning to Galashiels, "Effe" soon became a familiar name in the Border country. Her first poems were published in the *Border Advertiser* when the late John Russell, author of *The Haigs of Bemerside*, was editor, from whom she received great encouragement. Some of her verses appeared in *Chambers' Journal* and the *People's Friend*, and were copied into American and Colonial periodicals. A brief biography, together with a few poems, were included in *Edward's Modern Scottish Poets*—second series. In 1883 she issued a volume of poetry entitled *The Tangled Web*.

Encouraged by previous success, she again issued a small volume of hymns and religious poems in 1885, entitled *Peaceable Fruits*. A local gentleman sent a copy of this work to the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, in response to which the following reply was received,—

"Mr Gladstone has now examined the work, and the examination of it has interested him. He will be obliged if you will let the young authoress know this, and also if you will convey to her the accompanying volume, with his best wishes."

"Effe" has also contributed many hymns and sacred pieces to the English magazines, and was requested to write hymns in connection with the evangelistic work of the late Mr Spurgeon.

In 1889 she was married to Gavin Dickson, a woollen merchant in Galashiels. Shortly afterwards Mr and Mrs Dickson removed to Romano Mills in Peeblesshire, where they now reside. The following piece is given as a sample of Mrs Dickson's style in homely Scotch verse,—

#### A NOVEMBER DITTY.

It's drizzle, drizzle a' the day,  
Wi' ne'er a glint o' sunny ray  
Or fleck o' blue,  
So light the rain-cluds drifting, chill,  
O'er fallow-land and misty hill—  
No' e'en a wee bit blink to thrill  
Glad hope anew.

The straggling boughs stretch stripped and bare,  
The bonnie leaves ance green and fair

Aneath my feet

Lie dark and sodden wi' the rain,  
Their glad bright day o' beauty gane,  
The low winter sigh, wi' sobbing plain,  
Mair sad than sweet.

Sae dreary a' the scene around  
I start to hear a blithesome sound,

A cheery stave,

That seems to hae its place o' birth  
In heart, that a' the ills o' earth,  
Wi' carelless glee and honest mirth,  
Wad dauntless brave.

A wee bird shakes ilk droocket wing,  
His gratefu' sang to chirp and sing,

Pree hip and haw;

A lesson meet for sic as me  
To rise abune the ills I see,  
And bid my heart mair thankfu' be  
For mercies sma'.

FINIS.



MERCAT CROSS.

*Printed by A. Walker & Son, Galashiels.*



## CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF LOCAL EVENTS

FROM 1846 TO 1896.

- 1846 Great flood in the Gala, suspension bridge between Buckholmside and Wilderhaugh carried away.
- 1848 Horse races held on Boldside Haugh for the first time since 1824.  
Public meeting held and committee appointed to carry on the Chartist agitation.  
Scavenger cart sent round for the first time.  
One hundred gas lamps erected in the town.  
First cheap trip by railway from Bowland to Edinburgh; on Lammas Fair day.  
Weekly market started.  
Issue of *The Border Advertiser*, published by James Brown, which succeeded *The Border Watch*.
- 1849 Outbreak of cholera on 11th February.  
Railway opened between Galashiels and Edinburgh for mineral traffic on the 1st February, and for passengers on the 19th February.  
Juvenile Total Abstinence Society formed.  
Proposal to procure a drum with which to perambulate the town in the morning for the purpose of awakening the inhabitants.
- 1850 Ten Hours Bill came into operation—works shut on Saturdays at two o'clock.
- 1851 James Campbell, residing in the Netherhaugh, fined five shillings for committing a breach of the peace; the first case tried under the Police Act in the town.  
Mormon preachers ordered off the street by the police.  
Annual game of handball won by Melrose parish.
- 1852 Concert on behalf of the unemployed—£20 realised.  
Public baths and washing houses erected at Buckholmside by Mr Haldane, brewer.  
Highway robbery at Blyndley Birks.
- 1853 J. B. Gough visited the town and delivered his first lecture in Scotland.  
The working hours of the building trades reduced to fifty-seven per week.
- 1855 First sod of the Galashiels and Selkirk railway cut at Boldside.
- 1856 Great gale—forty feet of Comelybank Mill chimney stalk blown down.  
Fishwives make their first appearance in the town.  
*The Galashiels Record* issued, published by Adam Dunbar.
- 1857 Class opened for the practice of the sol-fa notation by Mr McLaren from Edinburgh.



- 1857 Telegraph extended to Galashiels.
- 1859 The erection of a combination poorhouse proposed by Major Scott of Gala.
- 1860 Cottagers' Horticultural Society formed.  
Mrs Scott died at Mossilee, aged 103 years  
*Dunbar's Register* issued by Adam Dunbar.
- 1862 Extraordinary meteor, as large as a full moon, visible about half a minute.  
Signora Mario lectured in the town on Italian freedom and unity.
- 1863 Parochial Board agree to acquire ground for a cemetery at Eastlands.  
Great rejoicings in the town in honour of the marriage of the Prince of Wales—public procession, including Magistrates and Police Commissioners, Manufacturers' Corporation, Volunteers, Freemasons, &c.; town decorated, and a grand display of fireworks in the evening.  
*The Border Beacon* published in Galashiels and Kelso.
- 1864 Mr Beaton appointed Superintendent of Police.  
Burgh boundaries extended.
- 1866 Gas Company resolve to remove their works from Paton Street to Galafoot.  
Formation of the local branch of Associated Carpenters and Joiners of Scotland.  
Galashiels and Peebles railway opened.  
New bridge over Gala at Station opened—cost £1050.  
Valuation of the burgh, £22,496—rates, 1/1 per £.
- 1867 The Queen passed through the town on her way to Balmoral.  
Slaughter-houses erected at Galafoot.  
Burgh Buildings erected at a cost of £2,200.  
Queen visits the Borders. Holiday in Galashiels on the occasion of the Royal visit to Abbotsford.
- 1868 Funeral and Hearse Society formed.
- 1870 Velocipede race at Gala games, to Cascade and back—four entries, two fell, the third broke his pedal, and the winner covered the four miles in twenty-one minutes.  
Good Templarism introduced into the town.
- 1871 Epidemic of small-pox and scarlet fever.  
Superintendent Beaton resigns, and W. Mackay, from Newhaven, appointed in his place.
- 1872 Science and Art classes inaugurated.  
Bronze relics found on Meikle Hill.  
Janet Sharp's moss drained.  
Heavy rainfall, amounting to 49·02 inches for the year—248 wet days.  
Building trades adopt the nine hours system.  
Vote by ballot first used at municipal election.
- 1873 Corporation acquire Eastlands Cemetery.  
Death of Mr Hope-Scott of Abbotsford.

- 1873 Ladhope Mission Hall opened.  
Galashiels Boys' and Girls' Religious Society organised.  
Universalist Church opened in the Public Hall with thirty-three.  
Fruitless attempt made by the Corporation to obtain ground for  
at Kilnknowe.
- 1875 Valuation of the burgh, £36,902; unlet property, £178, 10s.  
Mossilee farm-house destroyed by fire, in which Miss Scott perished.  
Heavy snow-drift on New Year's Day—excursion and other parties  
Edinburgh blocked at Falahill, where they remained till next day.  
Resolution passed by the Corporation to build Plumtreehall F.
- 1876 British workman public-house opened in High Street.  
Municipal Extension Act came into operation.
- 1877 Outbreak of fever in Overhaugh Street. The noted "Sand"  
found to be laden with organic impurity, and in an extremely bad  
condition; closed by order of the Corporation.
- 1879 Iron bridge erected over Gala at Sime Place to replace wooden  
Jubilee of the Temperance movement in Galashiels.  
Demonstration in honour of the Right Honourable W. E. Gladstone  
Galashiels Railway Station, while on his way to contest Midlothian  
Hunter's Bridge, erected over Gala.  
The burgh surveyed for a drainage scheme.
- 1880 Superintendent Mackay resigned, and was succeeded by  
Sutherland from Edinburgh.  
Issue of *The Border Counties' Magazine*, published by Thomas Mackay.
- 1881 Advent of the Hallelujah Army.  
Great flood in the Gala.  
Water cart introduced.  
First telephone in the town erected by Messrs Sanderson & Co.  
between their works and offices.  
Issue of *The Scottish Border Record*, published by John McCulloch  
James Wilson.
- 1882 Fountain erected in the Market Square.
- 1883 Gift of additional ground to the Public Park by Mr Scott of Gala.
- 1884 Great excitement caused in the town by the opening of a picture  
in the Corn Exchange on the Sabbath.  
Parliamentary boundaries of the burgh extended.  
Valuation of the burgh, £57,167; unlet property, £2,091, 10s.
- 1885 Telephone introduced by the National Telephone Company.
- 1887 Telephone extended to Selkirk.  
Rockery erected in the Public Park by Miss Haldane, The Gala.  
Bronze shield, with the Burgh Arms, presented to the Corporation  
by the brassfounders of Edinburgh at the close of the Exhibition in 1884.
- 1888 Severe gale—the tower of St Paul's Church damaged.
- 1889 Adoption of the Earlier Closing Act for public-houses.

CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF LOCAL EVENTS—*Continued.*

- 1889 Telephone extended to Hawick, Peebles, and Edinburgh.  
New Ladhope Bridge opened.  
The last thatched roof in the town removed from Tea Street.
- 1890 Branch of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children formed.
- 1891 Great flood in the Gala.  
Epidemic of influenza.
- 1893 Telephone opened direct between Galashiels and Glasgow.
- 1894 Intense frost, thirty-four degrees registered in the town. Tweed entirely frozen over at Abbotsford.  
Road roller procured by the Corporation.
- 1896 New bridge over the mill lade at end of Hall Street opened.  
Valuation of the burgh, £67,204, 19s, exclusive of railways; unlet property, £1692; burgh assessment, 2s 11½d.  
Issue of *The Galashiels Telegraph*, published by Alexander Walker & Son.

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Pringle, James, Lawrence, Mass., U.S.A.,	...	...
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## ERRATA.

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Page 233, line 23, *for* James Pont *read* John Knox.

Page 275, line 21, *for* 1826 *read* 1726.

Page 462, line 6, *for* 1895 *read* 1891.

Page 512, line 28, *for* Robert *read* William.

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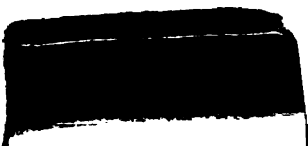




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